Eleksiyon 2010

High on news: QC councilor sponsors daily newspaper
LEARNING / F1

James, Williams rally Cavs past Celtics
SPORTS / A31

'First Filipino movie musical' tackles OFW phenomenon
LIFESTYLE / C1

'MONEY' PUNCH Floyd Mayweather Jr. pummels Shane Mosley during their WBC welterweight boxing match in Las Vegas. →P

Church enlists Manny, JC in drive vs RH bill

By Leila B. Salaverria and Philip C. Tubeza

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER. One week before the May 10 elections, the Catholic Church has sought to enlist candidates running for public office in its campaign against a controversial repro- CHURCH A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Monday, May 3, 2010 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 144 P18

Cardinal hits call for people power

Rosales reacts to Aquino's warning of poll fraud

By Leila B. Salaverria

A SENIOR CHURCH prelate yesterday said that warnings of another "people power" outburst if next week's elections were marred by massive fraud were "crazy (and) irresponsible" and the conditions that produced the 1986 popular revolt were not present now.

"The lines are not clear in the streets," Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said in a talk with reporters, adding that the 1986 People Power Revolution that ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos was "an extraordinary situation."

"You don't do that again. That's why we have the laws now," he added.

Rosales made the statement when asked by a reporter to comment on a statement by Liberal Party standard- CARDINAL A6

TOASTS OF TRIBE Former President Joseph Estrada, Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino standard-bearer, and his running mate, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, dance with elderly tribal women during a feast tendered for them in Baguio City. →NICQUILO/ABS-CBN

Take blood test, we'll fight, Floyd tells Pacman

LAS VEGAS—MOMENTS AFTER OVERwhelming Shane Mosley in a unanimous 12-round decision, undefeated Floyd Mayweather Jr. flung down the gauntlet to Manny Pacquiao: Take the blood and urine test and we'll fight.

"If not, no fight," the American said.

(Pacquiao, who is campaigning in Mindanao for a seat in Congress representing Sarangani province, was not immediately available for comment. An Inquirer reporter was told by a secretary that he was "still asleep.")

Mayweather, boxing's biggest box office TMH/ A30

Pastor Quiboloy anoints Teodoro

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Inquirer Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—THE WRITING IS OVER—the "anointed one" is administration presidential candidate Gilbert Teodoro Jr.

Televangelist Pastor Apollo Quiboloy—who claims to be the Appointed Son of God"—last night sealed speculation on whom he would endorse to his followers for president in next week's elections. PASTOR A10

Villar his own worst enemy

By Amando Doronila

THE FALL IN THE POLL RATINGS OF SEN. Manuel Villar accelerated during the last two weeks of April when two issues exploded to derail his presidential campaign.

ANALYSIS

The first was the news story on April 23 that Villar put pressure on the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) between May and June 2007 VILLAR A10

Ex-GMA adviser heads MWSS

By TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo has tapped her former political adviser, Gabriel Claudio, to chair the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) despite his apparent lack of qualifications, a former solicitor said.

A brother-in-arms of Ivan Uy during the "Oakwood" Mutiny, who in 2003 claimed that his erstwhile host, First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, signed a check to Jose Pidal, was also appointed to the MWSS board of trustees. Ushong Mahanay later retracted his statement.

Claudio's appointment to the board of the water regulatory body on March 5 was among a flurry of appointments made by Ms Arroyo ahead of the ban on appointments starting on March 10, or two months before EX-GMA A12

Tribe sees Erap win in pig bile

By Vincent Cabreza and Christian V. Esguerra

BAGUIO CITY—IF THE TRIBAL reading of a pig's entrails is to be believed, then Erap will be our president again.

After examining the bile of a TRIBE A12

THE ONE, THE ONLY
Eleksiyon 2010
MARIA ANA CONSUELO MADRIGAL:
In serving people, work becomes joy

(Editor's note: The presidential profiles will be running in no particular order but as the stories come in from reporters in the field.)

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Fourth of a series)

DIVING IS ONE OF THE THINGS Sen. Maria Ana Consuelo "Jamby" Madrigal loves.

The view under water is simply spectacular, she says.

The sharks and the barracudas do not scare her.

Where she is now in Congress, she says, these species abound and she is fighting them with hammer and tong.

Corruption is the campaign theme of Madrigal, who is running as an independent candidate for president in the May 10 elections.

She passionately talks against shenanigans in government, particularly in real estate deals, as though she were on a jihad.

If that were so, it was because she learned what being a ship captain was like at a very early age.

At a time when most Filipino children's familiarity with a boat was confined to those made of paper, Madrigal already was at home on the real thing.

At age 8, ships became the playground of this future senator and aspirant for captain of the ship of state.

"I'd gone into holds and hatch- JAMBY A20

THE CONTROVERSIAL senator greets supporters during a campaign sortie in Cavite.

WALKING THE TALK. On corruption issue, presidential candidate Sen. Jamby Madrigal says I never took people's money for personal gain or used my position to make my family's businesses big.

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

BANGUN PILIPINAS! Bro. Eddie Villanueva acknowledges the cheers of his followers during the party's "rolling de anawo" at the Luneta Sunday. Crowd estimates ran up to one million. (See story below) —PHOTO BY NOEL CELIS

Psychologists hit back: It's normal

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHO ARE YOU CALLING CRAZY?

The Psychological Association of the Philippines (PAP) yesterday denounced what it said was the intimation that people who see a psychologist or any mental health professional were "abnormal" or "permanently debilitated."

PAP also condemned not only the perception that depression was a permanent disability but also the use of terms like "ulirat" (abnormal), "sira ang ulo" (crazy) and "may dipormidad sa utak" (sick in the head) to label individuals.

"These irresponsible statements and similar acts perpetuate a profound lack of understanding of psychological concepts, of the nature of psychological problems and dysfunctions, and of the nature of psychological health and well-being," the group said in a statement.

"Seeing a psychologist or any mental health professional does not make a person 'abnormal,' seeing a psychologist means ensuring our mental health and psychological well-being," it said.

In its statements, PAP said recent events in the election campaign were "an affront to psychologists and to psychology as a discipline and profession."

"In particular, partisan individuals and media practitioners have not only presented to the public fraudulent psychological reports, but have also made irresponsible statements about different aspects of the practice of psychology and the nature of psychological functioning," the group said.

Different reasons

PAP board secretary Mira Oliveros pointed out that people visit psychologists for different reasons and in different contexts and scenarios.

"They feel that they have a problem or difficulty but, most of the time, these problems are not signs of clinical disorders," said Oliveros, a social psychologist.

"They may be depressed because of the death of a loved one or because they have relationship problems. So they seek help but that does not make them abnormal," she said.

Oliveros said most PAP members were counselors and not clinical psychologists or psychiatrists.

Bogus reports

Detractors of Liberal Party standard-bearer Sen. Benigno Aquino III have promoted claims supposed psychological exams of the senator but those have all been proven to be fabrications.

Two of the reports, which supposedly were prepared at Ateneo de Manila University and cast doubts on the mental fitness of Aquino, were released by the camp at Bisaya Villar, Nacionalista Party presidential candidate.

The Ateneo Department of Psychology and the two priests who supposedly individually signed such report said the evaluations were bogus.

"These irresponsible actions have dangerous long-term effects on efforts of Filipino psychologists and other mental health professionals to address the psychological well-being of Filipinos," PAP said.

Confidential

The group said psychological tests and assessments should not be released to media and the public to destroy a person's reputation.

"In accordance with the PAP Code of Ethics, the results of psychological tests or assessments cannot be released to the media or the public or to any person other than the client."

"Any reputable individual psychologist or psychological organization ensures the presence of confidentiality and thus the results of psychological tests or assessments are only shared with the client," it said.

PAP said psychologists "take reasonable steps to ensure that information to be disclosed will not be misused, misplaced or misinterpreted to infringe on human rights, whether intentionally or unintentionally."

'Profiling will tell if candidate is fit'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THERE IS ONE WAY TO FIND out if the country's next president suffers from psychiatric problems.

"By undergoing a neuropsychiatric profiling," according to Dr. Bo Cantos, president of the Quezon City-based Alliance of All Health Organizations of the Nation (AAHON).

Cantos Saturday said, "It's not recommendation and it is to be taken about three hours."

"A person's profile will also tell us if a person is lazy or if he or she has a tendency to rob it," he said.

With neuropsychiatric profiling, we can also predict a person's future actions," he said.

PAP said psychologists "take reasonable steps to ensure that information to be disclosed will not be misused, misplaced or misinterpreted to infringe on human rights, whether intentionally or unintentionally."

Neuropsychiatry deals with mental disorders attributable to diseases of the nervous system. It is closely related to behavioral neurology which addresses clinical problems of cognition or behavior caused by brain injury.

According to Cantos, diseases of the body have a physical manifestation that can often be caused by internal and external factors, or a combination of the two.

"Mental disorders should be no different," he said.

In a statement, both AAHON and the National Federation of Health Information practitioners of the Philippines urged national network officers in all health care facilities nationwide to "strictly enforce rules on confidentiality in the release and dissemination of medical and health information."

Bro. Eddie draws 1-M supporters to Luneta

By Dona Pazzibugan

EVANGELIST AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIdate Bro. Eddie Villanueva held his "rolling de anawo" on Saturday attended by at least one million supporters.

Entire families with children in tow showed up at the Luneta grandstand in Manila to profess support for their church leader's second foray into the electoral arena.

In coordinated yellow and green shirts and paraphernalia bearing the words "Eddie Ako" (Villanueva's supporters filled the grandstand).

"This is the real survey. The people have spoken!" declared Villanueva as he addressed the cheering crowd at 8 p.m. Organizers estimated the crowd at about 1.3 million at its peak.

Pre-election surveys

Villanueva was alluding to pre-election surveys that showed him lagging far behind in the crowd chase for presidency.

With Villanueva were his running mate, Perfecto Yasay, and Bangon Pilipinas senatorial candidates Zaldulah Almira, Jocelyn Bautista, Imelda Papin, Raimundo Ocampo, Kaka Bumanlag, Ade Sikabolis, Alex Tirazo, Reynaldo Primrose and Israel Vergara.

Earlier in the day, Bangon Pilipinas supporters kind the streets route of Roxas Boulevard starting from the corners of UN Avenue Street all the way to the intersection of Elisa to form a human chain.

Such volunteers held placards, danced to a campaign jingle and flashed the "V" sign on passing motorists.

"I am overwhelmed by the support of patriotic Filipinos who desire nothing but to see change in our nation," Villanueva said.

Concert by TV personalities

At around 10 p.m., the huge gathering was treated to a concert hosted by TV personality Dennis Roo and Bangon Pilipinas volunteer Edgar Robles.

Performers included Gary Valenciano, Jaclyn Rosales, Heidee Lauricio and Cris Hardware.

The entertainment numbers were interspersed with prayers led by pastors and religious leaders from different denominations for orderly and honest elections on May 10.

One supporter, 40-year-old Eugene Angeles, brought his wife, three young children and mother-in-law to the Luneta from their home in Marikina.

He said the other candidates were "old faces in government, except for Bro. Eddie."

Villanueva asked his supporters to "vote our traditional politics and vote for new politics."

He urged the youth not to vote for traditional politicians who engage in muckraking to advance their own electoral campaigns.

"The mudslinging between and among national candidates in the last two weeks has shown how disturbing and dirty traditional politics have become in this country," he said.

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From a 34-inch to a 28-inch tummy

Take blood test, we'll fight, Floyd tells Pacman

From page A1

show, rebounded from a close call in the second round to dominate Hatton in their welterweight fight on Saturday (Sunday morning in Manila), then vowed he would not fight Pacquiao unless the Filipino star accepted his ruthless plan outlined exclusively in Sports, Pages 42/Front 4/11.1

"If Manny Pacquiao wants to fight, it's not hard to find me," the American told a news conference. "If Manny Pacquiao takes the blood and urine test, we're not unduly difficult here."

But if not?

"My don't get no fight," Mayweather said.

That dead-breaking condition means losing Dan will likely cost Manny to suffer without end hope of seeing the last days of the sun cancel in the ring to their pugilistic prime.

Mayweather agreed to be the first to make the fight with Mayweather happen.

"He does what I asked him to do. He took a blood and urine test," Mayweather said. "At every athletic in the sport of boxing is clean, who else can it?

"I want to be on an even playing field. That's all I ask."

Boxing fans have savored the prospect of a Mayweather-Pacquiao showdown, if only to decide the pound-for-pound credentials of the world's best pound-for-pound fighters.

The 33-year-old Mayweather had been expected to meet Pacquiao earlier this year until negotiations collapsed over the Mayweather's demand for random drug testing. Manny Ross stepped over take the Filipino fighter.

"I'm not going out chasing fighters," said Mayweather, who announced his ring at the Dell pound-for-pound honor to Pacquiao during a 21-month retirement from the sport that ended only in September last year.

"If the fans want to see that happen, I want to make it happen."

Manny became a substitute for after talks broke down between Mayweather and Pacquiao, who arrived Roger Gracie's Arthur Chitty on March 13, beating him by unanimous decision in Dallas.

Mayweather had insisted on random pre-fight blood tests, banned Oxycontin and body-shaping tests, before he would fight Pacquiao.

When the Filipino refused, Mayweather broke off talks.

Critics said it was Mayweather's way of avoiding a fight against a southpaw who could beat him, a charge Mayweather denied even though he did not submit to the blood test demand.

When Manny was asked about the chances for a Pacquiao-Mayweather fight, the Gloved boy was frosted in his thoughts.

"If Manny takes the blood test, you'll see him (Mayweather) fight(Manny)" Medley said.

Coo-cooled fight

Mayweather underlined his fight award by dominating Medley, but not before giving his fans and his cornermen a scare when a right hand to the side of his head buckled his knees a minute into the second round, and he had to grab Medley to avoid going down.

Medley, a Mayweather's time-advancing left shoulder, landed another right later in the round, but the rest of the night belonged to Mayweather.

Fighting before a nine-studded crowd that included Muhammad Ali, Mayweather never came close to dropping Medley, but landed so many more punches than the unbeaten found in doubt and the stubble stands.

He had no answer for everything Medley tried to do, landing right hands to the head seemingly at will as the fight progressed.

By the end of the night, Mayweather had put so many rounds in the bank that the only question was whether he would stop Medley or be content to win a lopsided decision.

"I wanted to give the fans what they wanted to see, a toe-to-toe battle," said Mayweather, who has been criticized for fighting too defensively. "It wasn't the same right for me but I wanted to be opposites and I knew I could do it."

Two ringside judges scored it 119-109 for Mayweather, while the third had it 116-112.

Mayweather made Medley look easy for his 38 years as he landed sharp punches to his head, dominating a fighter who had vowed to turn the heat into the light of the decade. Medley tried his best, but couldn't match the speed of Mayweather, who grew more confident with each passing round.

Serving the storm

Medley showed outside bit of Mayweather's best-laid plans when he landed the big right hand in the second round that brought the fans to the HBO Grand arena to their feet.

They shouted, "Medley, Medley" as he followed Mayweather around the ring, building second-most position. But Medley stood to end the fight early. He landed another good right hand before the bell rang to end the round.

But Mayweather weathered the storm and came out in the third round, landing some shots of his own, while Medley couldn't find his mark.

"That came with the territory," Mayweather said of the right punch that staggered him. "Sometimes, you're going to get hit with hard shots. You have to work it up and keep fighting."

"I caught him with my big right hand and I tried to move around, but by that time he was too quick and I was too right," Medley said. "After the right hand, I thought I used it to knock him out and I needed to do it sooner than later, but I couldn't adjust and he adjusted. That's why he won the fight."

Medley said he thought the 15-month layoff since his last fight hurt him, as did a cliff neck. But Mayweather had a lot to do with his inability to land punches, refusing to allow Medley to dictate the pace.

Medley's corner kept imploring the fighter to throw his jab more and fight his way inside, but Medley was content to try to load up to hurt Mayweather with a big punch that didn't come.

By the 10th round, Stanley Richardson was even more hostile, telling Medley he needed a knockout.

Mayweather, who earned $2.5M in his pay debut 14 years ago, was guaranteed $32.5 million for probably well-lined up with much more since the final pay-per-view buys are added up.

Medley was guaranteed $7 million, and also had a share in the television revenues.

Reports from AP, SCP and Reuters

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Villar slams smokers, clubbers among rivals

By Nikko Dizon

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—RACIONALIST Party (NP) standard bearer Manny Villar yesterday took a dig at rivals in the presidential race who smoked heavily and reportedly enjoyed late nights out.

In a speech before pastors of the central Mindanao chapter of the United Pentecostal Church and their families, Villar did not name names but he seemed to be alluding to his two fiercest rivals when he said that it was important to ask whether or not a presidential candidate who smoked and went to nightclubs was a good role model for the youth.

Among the presidential candidates, Liberal Party (LP) frontrunner Benigno Aquino III and Deputy Speaker Joseph Estrada both smoke and have been reported to stay late nights out.

Villar said, "Ang mahalaga sa tanong na, 'Ano ba ang hilig mo?' Saan ka pumupunta gabi-gabi? Kaya ba ang mga nightclubs? Kung ba ay nagsisigarilyo ng three packs a day? Ang mga bagay na 'yan ay dapat nating isipin. Where do you go every night? Do you go to nightclubs? Do you smoke three packs a day? You should answer those questions because people will [how they should act by looking at models]."

In the course of his speech, Villar hinted to no names.

"If you haven't had a single late night, sorry, how can we believe that you can run the country, when your one and only experience as a lawmaker is being non-performing. Let's walk-out-in-aisle," Villar said in Filipino.

"You may be wondering who I am referring to. Just sit around because I don't want to target someone directly. But if you haven't done anything, haven't passed a single bill, how can you say the country needs you?" Villar continued in Filipino, adding that the country needed a president who had experience and a track record in bolstering civil disagreement.

Aquino reportedly authored eight bills during his nine terms in the Senate but none of them complet-

HP STANDARD-BEARER Manny Villar is deep in prayer during the Pro-Life Advocacy Mass at the Manila Cathedral yesterday where he and ding Kapatirang presidential candidate JC de los Reyes (left) signed a Covenant for Life against the reproductive health bill. (Story on Front Page.) CHRIS ISLA

ed the lawmaking process. Aquino was the principal sponsor of a law making Mabalacat City a component city of Pampanga province, but the law did not push through because the Supreme Court declared it unconstitutional.

Villar also lamented why the media did not investigate the alleged moral instability of Aquino even while they questioned and did extensive research on his claims of an impoverished childhood.

"I don't want to comment on it anymore, but for me, the media is being diverted. The issue is the (psychiatric) report, not the messenger," Villar told reporters in Filipino, referring to a psychiatric report that said Aquino suffered depression and melancholia which was found to NP supporter Guido Delgado.

Villar said the media and the public should investigate the matter and not automatically dismiss it as a false. "It was as if the only issue was where the report came from, not if the report was true or not," Villar added in Filipino.

In tribute to laborers, Chiz endorses Satur, Liza

By Tarra Quismundo

ADDING TWO MORE NAMES to his cross-party ballot, Sen. Francis "Chiz" Escudero on Am. today endorsed the Senate bid of militant lawmakers Satur Ocampo and Liza Maza in a "tribute to Filipino laborers" on the commemoration of Labor Day.

Escudero announced his new endorsements at Plaza Miranda, where labor groups held a memorial for the late labor leader and lawmaker Crispin Beltran.

Senators, who dropped his own plans to run for president and resigned his membership in the Nacionalista Party (NP) to run for senator (SOC) late last year, earlier announced his support for Liberal Party (LP) standard-bearer Benigno Aquino III and Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino vice presidential bet, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay. His campaign has come to be known as "Noytie," a mash-up of the candidate's nicknames.

Ocampo and Maza, party-list representatives of the militant organizations Bayan Muna and Gabriela, respectively, are joint candidates on the Hacienda Luisita Party (NP) senatorial slate.

"We have stood together by the same causes and principles, like fighting against an abusive administration," said Escudero of his two former colleagues in the House of Representatives.

Escudero, Maza and Ocampo, members of the House opposition coalition at one time, were active in movements to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I know them both well and I'd want to work with them in the Senate... rather than work with people I don't know and whose principles and integrity are still unknown to me," said Escudero.

The two militant lawmakers have been criticized for joining a slate that includes Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr., son of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos whose regime they fiercely fought.

Erap open to Gibo alliance

BACOOR CITY—THE CAMP OF former President Joseph Estrada yesterday opened the door to a possible alliance with administration standard-bearer Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr. with just a week before elections.

His son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, described as a "very welcome development" the idea of joining forces with Teodoro, when the latter had earlier hinted to the most likely conflict-ridden to the most likely conflict-ridden to the most likely conflict-ridden

GMA eschews use of gov't vehicles on stump

By Tonette Orejas and Charlene Cepeda
Inquirer Central Luzon

OLONGAPO, PAMPANGA—MO government-owned vehicles were seen in the two-hour motorcade of President Macapagal-Arroyo here on Saturday when she campaigned for the second day for Pampanga re-electionist.

Still, 14 members of the Presidential Security Group (PSG) and eight policemen secured the President throughout the route starting from Barangay Balang-Balang in Hermosa to her home locale in Arroyo Church in Lubao.

In the convoy of 11 vehicles, only two (mini van of the Philippine National Police sports) government plates. The PSG men and women, mostly clad in civilian clothes, rode in their private cars. Four body guards accompanied Ms Arroyo on the shuttle bus.

In Barangay San Antonio here, where a larger and more eager crowd gathered by the residents, (Nov. 1956) men walked by Ms Arroyo's vehicle to check well-wishers and shield her from rowdy supporters. Wearing a dark blue, long-sleeved shirt, she shook hands with local residents, waved and smiled.

In contrast, her opponents—independent candidate Filipino Sampang and Nacionalista Party's Edwin Olivares—campaigned in the same district without bodyguards.

Later that day, the former visited the Dominic village of Barangay Bhale. Elderly women welcomed her with kisses when she arrived at 4:30 p.m.

An hour before that, the motorcade system of Ang Galing Pinoy (AGP), a party-list group representing sports personalities, blasted her campaign songs.

The first ditty was based on Lucio Bonifacio's nineteen hit, "Gloria." Apparently those who composed the jingle did not realize that the 1980s hit was about a woman "always on the run" and described as "hooked for a breakdown" in the pursuit of her love.

True Kapampangan

The second tune took the beat of the old Kapampangan song, "Ating Ita Pung Singsing (I once had a ring)."

In both jingles, Ms Arroyo, the candidate, was described as intelligent and strong, a true Kapampangan and daughter of the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

AGP nominee, outgoing Lubao Mayor Dennis Pineda, joined Ms Arroyo on the shuttle bus owned by gubernatorial candidate Lilia Pineda. Dennis is the sister of Lilia Pineda.

Last week it was outgoing Pampanga Rep. Jose Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, also an AGP nominee, who campaigned with his mother.

Vote for Among Panlilio

Meanwhile, embattled Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio urged Kapampangan voters not to support the "Liberasyon" tandem in Pampanga, referring to President Arroyo and Lilia Pineda.

"They are very close to each other. I feel they share a lot of controversies. (I would like to stop their scam) because I am against 'pamimigay' (politics)," Panlilio said.

Yesterday, more than 1,000 Panlilio supporters joined a motorcade in the province's second district, the hallmark of Mr Arroyo and Pineda.

Along the streets, people braved the heat and shouted "Amang" which is a term of respect for priests and flashed the "Laban" (Fight) sign as Panlilio's convoy passed by.

When the motorcade reached Lubao town, a mobile sound system on one of the campaign vehicles blared this message: "Don't sell your votes because they are sacred."

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Journalists call for unity on Press Freedom Day

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL UNION OF Journalists in the Philippines (NUJP) marks World Press Freedom Day today with an appeal to all media persons to present a solid front against what it described as unrelenting assaults on freedom of the press in the country.

"If the Philippine media are free, it is not due to the administration but because Filipino journalists have chosen to be free. Let us celebrate as well the unprecedented unity the media community has found in the face of the continuing threats," NUJP officials led by its chair Nonoy Espina Jr., said in a statement.

The NUJP said it was during President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration that the Philippines became the "most murderous country for journalists in the world."

It said almost 100 media persons were slain during Ms Arroyo's nine-year tenure, including the 32 killed on Nov. 23 but practically "no one has been known as the Maguindanao massacre.

The group said the Arroyo administration was guilty of "acts of commission and omission" that "still seem to pose freedom and freedom of expression to the country."

It called on news persons to commemorate World Press Freedom Day "with a solemn vow to make this and all other administrations that would seek to trample on the freedoms of the press and of free expression accountable."

The NUJP called on all media persons and employees of mass media entities to wear black on this day.

It also called on television, newspaper and online media to display today's note that says: "Today as we observe World Press Freedom Day, let us remember all media practitioners killed with impunity and vow to fight until justice is achieved."

The NUJP asked that cameras of shows be enabled in newsrooms, radio booths, hosts, coverages, meetings and assemblies when the clock strikes 6 p.m. today and suggested that those who could not attend the different media gatherings might light candles outside their offices.

NUJP will lead a gathering of media persons at the Barangay Ng mga Bayani in Quezon City at 5:30 p.m. by setting a prayer, singing songs and lighting candles and candles to remember fallen colleagues.

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Monday, May 3, 2010
Philip and James

1st Reading: 1 Cor 15:1-8
Gospel: Jn 14:6-14

Jesus said to Thomas, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. If you know me, you will know the Father also. And even now you know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father and that is enough." To this Jesus said to him, "What! I have been with you so long and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever sees me sees the Father; how can you say 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

"All that I say to you, I do not say of myself. The Father who dwells in me is doing his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; at least believe it on the evidence of these works that I do.

"Truly, I say to you, the one who believes in me will do the same works that I do, and he will do greater than these, for I am going to the Father. Everything you ask in my name, I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. And everything you ask in calling upon my Name, I will do."

Commentary:
"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."
Jesus is the face of God on earth.
Jesus shows us the heart of God: compassionate, forgiving, full of love for us.
By becoming like Jesus we become what God wants us to be: true Christ-persons, forgiving, full of love for others.

(Scripture texts used in this work are taken from the New American Bible, Revised Edition © 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, D.C. and are used by permission of the copyright owner. All rights reserved. No part of the New American Bible may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the copyright owner.)

Cardinal Rosales hits call for people power

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BALINTAWAK BRANCH THE HOME DEPOT
MARIKINA BRANCH THE HOME DEPOT

From page A1

Soccsksargen Bongbong Marcos III that people might speak take to the streets if he were cheated of victory in the presidential election.

Noynoy said he had not heard anyone make that statement but that he disagreed with such moral issues.

"I did not hear that but if anyone said that, that is (an) irresponsible statement," he said.

People are sovereign

Aquino, the front-runner in surveys conducted by the polling outfits Social Weather Stations and Pulse Asia, was quoted in a media report as saying during a campaign stop in Bongabong that "we're (only) revolutionaries in the people."

"If they feel they will be fooled (in elections), I'm sure they will again regain sovereignty among themselves," he said.

The same report quoted Aquino as saying that "it's premature to call for people power."

An ABS-CBN report however quoted dismissed Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon as saying that if politicians manipulate the results of the elections, "the people will come out ... We have no choice but people power."

Asked for clarification on Aquino's position, his spokesperson Edwin Lacierda told the Inquirer by phone yesterday: "If it is clear that he lost because he was cheated, or through failure of elections, then (people power) is an option that he will take."

"If he lost (as in honest) elections and (also) by electric cut, then he will abide by the results," Lacierda added.

'Let's use our head'

Noynoy said that if there was a basis to call for people power, he was not averse to it, but he added that he saw no reason to call for any mass movement now.

He said the situation in 1986, when Filipinos massed at Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (Edsa) to force Ferdinand Marcos into exile, was different from today's.

"Why resort (to) violence (when) we can use our head?" he said.

"Remember, in that time there was a dictator and the dictator was there with no real credible elections, only referendum, and it was (for) us to say in 20 years. Good heavens. Do you expect that? No, come on, let's use our head. There are two different things."

Noynoy said that anybody in the place of the late Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, who rallied on Filipinos to support the military rebels against Marcos in 1986, would have to do what he did.

But Soaksksargen archdiocesan spokesman Fr. Jerry Orbos said that "in democratic (countries) ... (call for people power) is unimaginable."

"Come on, come on, (let's) just (stay) crazy, crazy," he said. "There are two different things. That's why whenever (and that) that's (why) I like Archbishop Sheehan (and) I have never heard him, but (that) kind of thinking is irresponsible thinking."

'Me, for heaven's sake'

Asked if he would call for people power if Estrada (as second in the polls) is cheated, Noynoy said he would not since there were legal recourses that people could take.

"No. For heaven's sake, there is the Constitution. All these are covered by provisions of the Constitution. If there are complaints, credible, you go to the Comelec, you go (to) Congress, there are recourses still there," he said.

Founder Immaculate Conception Filipinos were always in a hurry, which was why he said, they had failed to develop into a better people and tended to call for people power easily.

"We are always in a hurry," he said. "We forget to grow in (the spiritual) development aspect. We always look for the shortcut when we mature as a nation and also (as) (people will) take time." With a report from Philip Tubeza

Church enlists Manny, JC

From page A1

abortion bill (RH bill) that seeks to curb a runaway population growth blamed for sweeping poverty.

At least two presidential candidates—Sen. Manny Villar and Councilor JC de los Reyes of Ormoc—yesterday signed the covenant to protect life and to support the RH bill. Councilor Lucy Torres of the House of Representatives failed to enlist in the drive of their regular sources in February. (See photo on Page A6.)

A sprinkling of senatorial candidates also were on hand for the event that followed a Mass said by Manila Archbishop Cardenal Gaudencio Rosales.

But Rosales later told reporters that the candidates signing the covenant did not mean that the Church would support or campaign for them.

"Probably, you will give it a political nuance—saying that those who signed will be the candidates of the Church—no, we will be campaigned for by the Church," he said.

"I don't think that's the manner of the covenant. They are really intent on preserving the sacredness, sanctity, quality of the Filipino born (before we have sex)."

In his homily, Rosales earlier urged the synod of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) against the reproductive health bill and spoke at length against incest, education component beginning at Grade 5.

"There is church everywhere and dignity that life demands, at whatever stage it is found," he said. The new synod must be the voice of both love and life and the values of the Filipino families and the fidelity they put in both."

Rosales said that sex only those wants are need to satisfy the strong the use of contraceptives and that condom or latex they would harm how these devices worked.

The Cardinalate, Rosales said, claims that the government should support the parents' right and duty to raise the youth by the development of their moral character.

"Shall we say now that handing the wrong how to put on these contraceptives is developing moral character?" he asked.

"There is something wrong here. Let us pray that the Lord will better Solomon for the country," he added.

Vote-prolife candidates

Rosales also warned against the "power, the lobby and the money" behind those pushing contraceptives. "Do not sell the Filipino family down the drain. There are many people outside my country who welcome our values, our traditions and our faith," he said.

Rosales' Mass in Manila Cathedral was followed by the signing of the covenant by fifty-three candidates pledged to defend the Philippines and its people, and will speak for abortion, euthanasia, abortion, terminal population control and homosexual unions.

Before the Mass ended, Council of the Laity national president Edgardo Trio Tirona called on Catholic voters to elect only those who follow the Church's prolife position.

"We have always been prolife. The government is no affirmation of our prolife position," Tirona told reporters.

Of course, we will implement that. That is my belief and it will be my guide if I become elected president," he said. "I will not make it law. You decide for yourself. In other words, you have the right to do what you want."

"I've always been prolife," he said, pointing out that he opposed the RH bill, along with Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Fr. Melvin Castro, executive secretary of the CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Family and Life, said other presidential candidates had signaled their intention to sign the covenant.

Aquino position

However, Edwin Lacierda, spokesperson for Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, the leading presidential candidate in the surveys, said that the Liberal Party standard-bearer did not get an invitation to the signing.

Aquino has been endorsed by Catholic groups for his stand on the RH bill, but Lacierda said that Aquino did not support the measure in its present form.

He explained that Aquino maintained that the country's high population growth "must be addressed."

"The state should inform and educate the public, especially the poor, of their choices in family planning, both natural and modern," Lacierda said.

"We should leave it to the people to choose the size of their family and the method for our self-esteem (especially the conscience of individualism)," he added.

Lacierda said Aquino would not restrict the public's choice only to natural family planning. He only ratified approval by the Church.

"If you are Catholic and you choose only natural family planning methods, that's fine. Ok. But the government should not restrict the choices of the public," he said.

Other politicians present at the Mass were Governor Eduardo Gullas, Cebu City vice mayor-elect Michael Rama, former Sen. Francisco Tatad, and top Nacionalista senatorial candidates Jo Imbong, Adrian Sison, Rizalito David and Mitzuel Maliksi.

Bill propagates life

Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay, the bill's principal author, has said that the measure seeks to provide information and access to both natural and modern family planning methods which are medically safe and legally permissible.

"The bill is not prolife. It is propolife life," Lagman said. "It will empower couples with information and opportunity to plan and space their children."

He denied that the bill would lead to legalization of abortion. He said that many Catholic countries such as Mexico, Brazil and Ireland, banned abortion while upholding family planning and responsible parenthood.

The bill does not claim to be a cure for poverty, Lagman said.

"It simply recognizes the inevitable link between a huge population and poverty. Unbridled population growth means socioeconomic development and aggravates poverty," he said, pointing to a 2004 study by the Asian Development Bank.

The National Statistics Office estimates that there were 92.1 million Filipinos as of 2009, with 41 of them surviving on a dollar a day, the poverty threshold defined by the World Bank. The population is projected to hit the 100-million mark by 2013.

The Adventist Church remains apolitical; rallies members to vote in coming elections

The Seventh-day Adventist Church endorses no individual or group in any level of governance. However, it encourages all its members to go out and vote for the people whom they see as good, honest and supporters of religious freedom for all peoples, regardless of religious affiliations or backgrounds.

"Our church members are free to choose whom to vote. God endows them with wisdom to know the candidates who adhere to the highest standards of behavior. It is of note, that the church has been consistent in doing its share in the responsibility of building communities by cooperating with the elected leaders of the land through health, education, social and other forms of development programs." **—Pastor Alberto C Gullan, Jr, president, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Southern Asia-Pacific Region.**

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates schools, hospitals, publishing houses, health food factories, and wellness centers. It cooperates with the government in educating the public on healthy lifestyle even as it maintains centers and conducts seminars that expose the dangers of tobacco, alcohol and other forms of drugs. It is active in doing relief and development projects in calamity-stricken areas of the country through ADRA, its social development arm.

For inquiries or information please visit, write, or call the following regional offices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

North Philippine Union Conference
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P.O. Box 400, 1099 Manila, Philippines
website: www.spumadventist.org
Tel No. (02) 526-8670 to 71

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Tel No. (088) 858 6389

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Upper Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City
P.O. Box 2168, 9000
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No. (088) 858 6389

Namfrel won't give up its role

By Jeannette I. Andrade

OLD HABITS DO DIE HARD.

Despite its failure to secure accreditation as an official watchdog of the Commission on Elections (Comelec), the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) will go ahead and conduct its own tallies to "validate" the results of the May 10 polls.

Banking on its 26 years of experience, Namfrel said its lack of accreditation was not a setback.

At yesterday's Bulilan in Tinsuyan, Namfrel secretary general Rio Alvia said the organization would be able to validate the results of the elections "since I'm the ninth to 10th copies of the election returns that would be made available to the public."

"It is an added assurance to the public that the elections are credible and it is an added assurance on the credibility of the Comelec in conducting the automated polls," Alvia said, adding that what the organization would be conducting is a parallel verification count.

A parallel verification count, he said, will tally the votes independently from the Comelec with accuracy as the goal instead of speed.

He said it would be easier for Namfrel to announce the election results since the number of precincts was reduced to just over 76,000 from 240,000.

"We were able to monitor the results in 2007 or 95 percent. With fewer precincts, it would be easier for us to handle and achieve a hundred percent," Alvia said, pointing out that a Namfrel volunteer would be deployed in each polling precinct.

He said Namfrel would make public the results of its monitoring through its website and that the group's board would have to discuss any other means by which to disseminate the information to the public.

Alvia said the group's monitoring was not intended to create confusion.

"This is not an attempt to undermine the Comelec or the automated polls. But the Comelec results and our monitoring must match considering that they would come from the same source documents," he said.

The Namfrel official said the election reports generated by the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines would be the source documents for both the group and the Comelec.

Alvia said the only time election results tallied by the Namfrel and the Comelec differed was during the 1998 race as indicated documents culled by President Ferdinand Marcos.

"We haven't had that kind of divergence in succeeding elections," he said.

He added that apart from coming out with unofficial election results, volunteers will file reports on untoward incidents in their respective precincts. With a report from Perseo Quiano

IT experts bat for poll task force

By Jocelyn R. Uy

CONCEDING THAT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to reconsider major changes to ensure credible automated polls, a group of information technology (IT) professionals is pushing for the creation of a 11-member body to monitor the polling and votes precinct has been purchased.

The Philippine Computer Society (PCS), which is known to be the oldest organization of information and communication technology professionals in the country, submitted the recommendation to Defense Secretary Norberto Gonzales after a "crisis management" forum held last week.

At the forum, PCS identified what it said were 11 loopholes and areas of concern in the automated election system. It, however, admitted that concerns were "minor and nonfatal," since the May 10 election was barely two weeks away.

"The group's energy and focus would be better directed at monitoring the activities of the Comelec and the polling "incorruptible, transparent and credible."

It recommended that the members of the "automated Election System 2010 Task Force" be appointed by the Department of National Defense and the PCS and be provided with an initial funding of P5 million to cover professional fees, personnel and logistical expenses, such as food and lodging.

The tasks of the 11-man team would include conducting random spot checks, joint and during the elections in selected areas to the reliability of individuals designated as technical support personnel to serve as the 26

Lawyers in final attempt to stop CJ nomination

By Dona Z. Pazolagen

A LEGAL GROUP led by ex-Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo has made a last-ditch attempt to defer the scheduled nomination today of the shortlist of nominees Chief Justice Renato Corona to be submitted to the President.

Marcelo asked the JBC to hold off on the submission of the short list, informing the body that the PBA would be filing on May 4 a motion for reconsideration of the appeal for reconsideration. A second motion for reconsideration is officially pending although the high court has not entertained such motions in some instances.

Marcelo also said the JBC did not actually need to submit the list of nominees until May 17, when Chief Justice Reynato Puno retires.

"Petitioner PBA is mindful of the general rule that a second motion for reconsideration is a prohibited pleading. However, PBA believes that the instant case presents an issue unprecedented in its public interest implications and involves a constitutional question that resonates to the very core of our nation's ideals regarding the democratic republican model of government to which we subscribe," Marcelo argued.

"At the very least the issue involves the independence and credibility of the Supreme Court in light of the intended appointment to be exercised by the incumbent President as well as giving life to the notions of checks and balances in the Constitution and limitations which operate in this particular presidential right," he said.

Puno and the seven other JBC members are scheduled to meet at the Hyatt Hotel and Casino in Manila this morning to vote on the four remaining candidates.

Higher number of votes

The three nominees with the highest number of votes will be officially nominated to the President.

The four candidates are Supreme Court Associate Justices Renato Corona, Antonio Eduardo Nachura, nominated justices, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro and Adolfo Tabios, and acting Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Edilberto Sandoval.

Senior Associate Justice Antonio Carpio, the most senior member of the court, was not included in the list. Carpio-Morales withdrew as candidates to underscore their position that the President should not be allowed to appoint a Chief Justice during the election period.

The election period started on March 10, or two months before the May 10 elections, and lasts until March 31, 2011.

But the Supreme Court on March 17 ruled 9-2 (Puno and two other justices abstained while two other justices voted the same way permanently) that the constitutional ban does not apply to the Supreme Court.

Ruling affirmed

The high court affirmed its ruling on April 20 when it denied all motions for reconsiderations, including one filed by PBA.

Aside from Puno who is the ex-officio JBC chair, the other ex-officio members are Acting Justice Secretary Alberto Agra, Sen. Francis Escudero and Rep. Niel Tupas Jr. (Cap. Ilog, Iloilo).

The last two chair the Senate and House committees on justice, respectively.

The four regular members who were appointed by the Arroyo are retired Supreme Court Justice Regino Hermosisima Jr. University of the Philippines law faculty dean Amado Olmaypaz for the academe, integrated bar of the Philippines representative Leonardo Castro, and retired Supreme Court Justice Ameurfina Asuncion Melencio Herrera for the private sector.

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Kin of Pinoy found dead in US barracks in Marawi seek SC help

By Dona T. Pazolagen

THE FAMILY OF A FILIPINO INTERPRETER, who died under mysterious circumstances inside a US barracks located in a Philippine Army camp in Marawi City in February has turned to the Supreme Court for help in light of an alleged cover up by Philippine and US military authorities.

Relatives of Gregan Cardeño, who was reported dead on Feb. 2 right after starting work as an interpreter for US soldiers, filed last week a petition for writs of amparo and habeas data asking the Supreme Court to order an investigation into his death and that of a Philippine Army major who investigated the incident.

They said the autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) found four three-inch deep puncture wounds in Cardeño's eye, contusions in his head and abrasions and hematoma in different parts of his body which appeared to belie claims of Philippine and US military authorities that he had committed suicide by hanging himself with a bed sheet.

"The petitioners believe there was a cover-up and commitment of the cause of death of Gregan," said lawyer Rex Bernardino in the petition.

Part of cover-up

The Cardeño family also alleged that Army Maj. Javier Ignacio, who had told Cardeño about the interpreter's job, was killed on March 25 in Zamboanga City as part of the cover-up.

Ignacio was also on his way to meet with the Cardeño family to discuss the findings of a re-autopsy on Cardeño's remains when motorcycle-riding men fired nine gunshots into him.

"The petitioners have exhausted all efforts legally available, and there is no other plain and speedy remedy to protect the rights of the petitioners and their close and immediate relatives except by this application for the writs of amparo and habeas data," Fernandez said.

The Supreme Court has adopted the writs of amparo and habeas data as legal remedies for violation and victims of extrajudicial killings and disappearances believed committed by the government using its security forces.

Cardeño was hired as an interpreter for the US Army Special Operations Task Force-Philippines (JSOTFP) on Jan. 30 of this year by Skylink Security and General Services, reportedly the local subcontractor of Dyne Interna-tional, a contractor for the United States Army.

Cardeño, who was from Tacurong in Sultan Kudarat like Tinang and Bisaya and even Subano of Indonesia, thought he was going to work in Camp Siongco in Awang, Maguindanao, his family said.

He also hung from out of Khalis Anderson Air Base in Sanitungan City on Feb. 1, he was brought to the U.S. JSOTFP headquarters inside the Philippine Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade's Camp Edwards in Marawi City.

He was able to talk to his wife and sister and complained that he did not like the work he was being asked to do.

Cardeño's relatives told the Supreme Court the Philippine and US authorities refused them entry into the barracks where he died and that the Marawi police refused to turn over his belongings, including his cell phone and the bed sheet that was supposedly used in the suicide.

Phone log emptied

The police reportedly deemed the phone's log had been emptied.

Cardeño's shirt had been washed when it was turned over to the family although there was a brown stain in the chest area. His mobile phone log was empty.

The family said the handwriting in the suicide note was not Cardeño's. They said the wounds on his neck did not appear to have been caused by a bed sheet but by rope.

The family also asked the Supreme Court to issue protective orders for them and the family of Major Ignacio because they had been receiving death threats.

The respondents in the suit are President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Visiting Forces Agreement Commission, JSOTFP-AFP officers identified only as Captain Bauer and Master Sergeant Glenn; Western Mindanao Command chief Lt. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, a General Aida and Col. Pelin Cadeo of the 103rd IB; SPO1 Ali Bangolo and SPO1 Mayrome Angimotopan of the Marawi City Police, a PO2 Magc, a police intelligence officer; and Philippine National Police Director General Jesus Verzosa.

Also named respondents were Capt. Mikhael Ilay and Brig. Theresa Dorothy of the US Embassy, 103rd IB; and Sonnie Rivera II and Skylink.

HELP SAVE & PROTECT FAMILY & LIFE!

We, the TASK FORCE FOR FAMILY & LIFE VIRTUS, following the mind of the Church, view the Reproductive Health Bill promoting contraceptives, sex education, etc., as opening the door to a culture destructive of our moral character as a nation.

"The right to life is the first fundamental right, on which all the others are based and which cannot be compromised once it is lost."
(Pope John Paul II)

"It would not be morally permissible to vote for candidates who support anti-family policies, including reproductive health."
(Catechism for CEO Electors)

"The state shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception."
(Article II, Section 12, Philippine Constitution)

Contrary to this position, SENATOR ALQUINO declared:

"I don't care if the Catholic Church will abandon me because of my support for the Reproductive Health Bill"... We must ensure full availability of contraceptives." (BS, October 23, 2009)

The following candidates are active promoters of the RH BILL, endorsed by PLCPD:
ACOSTA, BIAZON, BAUTISTA, CAYETANO, ESTRADA, HONTIVEROS, MARCOS, MAZA, REMULLA, SANTIAGO, TAMANO and others.

Listed below are candidates who are DEFENDERS for FAMILY & LIFE and publicly REJECTED the RH BILL:

PRESIDENT:
● 8 **T** EODORO, GIBO

SENATORS:
● 57 **T** ATAD, Kit
● 21 **I** MBONG, Jo Aurea
● 14 **D** RILON, Franklin
● 15 **E** NRILE, Juan Ponce
● 53 **S** OTTO, Tito
● 44 **P** IMENTEL, Gwen
● 23 **L** ACSON, Alex
● 52 **S** ISON, Adrian

T.I.D.E.S. P.L.S.

PARTYLIST:
● 23 **ABA**

Romulo to address no-nukes meet at UN

By Jerome Aning

FOREIGN SECRETARY ALBERTO ROMULO yesterday left for New York City to participate in the review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) hosted by the United Nations 30 years ago.

Philippine Ambassador to the UN Libran Cabactulan will preside over the NPT review conference scheduled for May 3 (May 4 in Manila) until May 28 at UN headquarters in New York.

Romulo will deliver a statement from the Philippine government during the first day of the gathering.

"The eyes of the world will literally be on the Philippines and the month-long review conference. The implications of this conference in terms of promoting international peace and security cannot and should not be underestimated," Romulo said in his departure statement.

Every five years

Review conferences take place every five years to determine compliance with the NPT by its 189 signatories, which include five of the world's recognized nuclear states, namely the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China.

"The Philippines assumed the presidency of the NPT conference and it is an occasional answer that there is a balanced implementation of all three pillars of the treaty, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy," Romulo said.

On nuclear disarmament, the secretary said it would be good that the Philippines and All Filipinos "if nuclear weapons are eliminated once and for all to ensure that there is no nuclear exchange in our region or anywhere else in the world, given the almost global presence of the Filipinos."

Imbalances, insecurities

Non-proliferation was just as important because the spread of nuclear weapons could lead to imbalances, which in turn could cause the movement of nations, thus increasing the threat of miscalculation and war until the use of such weapons, he said.

On the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, Romulo said, "it has been touted as the answer to climate change and the Philippines now has to consider such an option in the future."

Cabactulan, meanwhile, praised a paper about the conference on the website of the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security (http://disarm.igc.org). He wrote that the success of the conference would depend on the crafting of a document that "that is both aggressive and doable, which goes beyond merely managing the status quo and lays down a firm foundation for negotiations leading to the total abolition of nuclear weapons."

Filipino drivers in Saudi receive no pay, housing

ABOUT 30 FILIPINO TRAILER-TRUCK drivers in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, have sought the help of the Philippine government after their employers failed to pay their salaries and provide them with proper accommodations.

The drivers, employed by Al Jamee H. Transportation Establishment, are housed in five to a truck without a toilet, kitchen and air conditioning, according to overseas Filipino workers group Migrante Middle East.

Migrante ME regional coordinator John Leonard Monterona, who is based in the Saudi capital Riyadh, said officials of the group's Dammam chapter visited the truck drivers on April 23.

"Our officials were surprised to see the seven drivers living in a makeshift lean-to at the side of a bungalow with no air conditioning, kitchen and toilet, which the drivers said they made themselves because their employers did not provide them with accommodations," Monterona said.

Migrante echoed the drivers' complaints to Ben Ong, Philippine labor attaché in charge of the Saudi Eastern Region. The group also brought some of the drivers to the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) in Al Khobar, where Ong is based.

Migrante quoted one of the drivers, Johnny Buhagiar, as saying that the original contract he signed stated that he would be receiving a monthly salary of 1,600 Saudi Arabian riyals (about P19,400).

However, the drivers ended up receiving only 700 riyals (about P8,000) plus a total allowance of 200 riyals (about P2,300). Their employers also deducted from their pay whatever fines and penalties they incurred for traffic violations while they were on duty.

The drivers said their salaries were to be cut to 600 riyals (about P7,000) starting May 2010.

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Hot mornings, rainy afternoons

METRO MANILA COULD SEE HOT MORNINGS but cloudy afternoons with the possibility of rain showers for most of the week, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

Pagasa weather forecaster Buddy Javier said the hot weather in the mornings leads to evaporation and the formation of clouds in the afternoon.

"When these clouds become heavy, that's when the rains fall," Javier said.

This last been the case in Metro Manila for the past few days. This weather pattern, Javier said, may persist until Thursday.

Minimum temperatures have been hovering 26 degrees Celsius for most of the week, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said yesterday.

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Maximum temperatures in the country, Pagasa said, will experience gentle cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and thunderstorms.

The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms mostly

Ex-GMA adviser now chairs MWSS

GMA didn't know

about talks–PCGG chief

LIFE'S A BREEZE IN THE HEART OF TAGAYTAY.

Your laid-back weekend getaway in the clouds.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Working stiff

IN THE HASTILY REARRANGED OFFICIAL SCHEDule, today is the day the rest of the country marks Labor Day. Maybe we can use the occasion to reflect on one other under-remarked aspect of the labor picture: the true size of the labor force.

If we are to believe the Arroyo administration's public-relations push, the government created a total of 14.2 million jobs in the last nine years.

EDITORIAL Granted, even the administration will admit that many of these jobs were transient, but did it in fact create their many? Writing in its No Free Lunch column last Feb. 9, former National Economic and Development Authority director general Cielito Habito raised a simple fact. The quarterly Labor Force Survey of the National Statistics Office "reported 27.8 million employed workers in October 2000, and 35.5 million in October 2009. Straightforward arithmetic tells me that only 7.7 million additional jobs (more about that in Arroyo's remarks, then," By what restrictive sleight of hand, by which operations of higher mathematics, did that total end up almost double to Malacañang's "Gawin Taya Noon, Gawin Taya Ngayon" advertisements?

The last, most reliable statistics are often not those found, or managed, in PR-tabling points.

If we look closer at the data accumulated over the years through the LFS, we can readily see that the growth in new jobs ("total net job creation" in 2009 was about 976,000) does not match the growth in new workers. Among the labor force (31 million in 2009), Habito draws the sobering coordination in his column of Feb. 15: "Thus, we have been unable to keep pace with our fast-growing work force—and note that this obviously runs out those who opted to seek their fortunes abroad last year, numbering over a million according to government reports."

The latest LFS, conducted in January, carries potentially cautionary news. It found that the number of unemployed were down by about 100,000, to 2.8 million, from a year ago. Current Neda Director-General Augusto Santos said the number of jobs created skyrocketed from 569,000 in January 2009 to 1.71 million in January 2010. He cited the rise in election-related jobs as the service and industry sectors, however, as one possible cause of the decrease in the ranks of the jobless. Even if this reading is accurate, then, the drop in unemployment can only be temporary.

Even more worrying, the same survey found that underemployment had risen from 18.2 percent to 19.7 percent, to a total of about 7.1 million people. That is a lot of underemployed, and considering that an underemployed worker is defined as one who wants to work longer hours or to an additional job, the underemployment rate may be the true measure of an economy's ability to provide its people with work opportunities.

"The Philippine labor market posted a strong performance amid the global economic crisis, the lingering impact of the destructive typhoons late last year and the damages caused by the El Niño phenomenon in the second half of 2009," Santos said. That may yet be true, but the reality is an unemployment rate of 7.3 percent is still much too high, and an underemployment rate of 19.7 percent is unconscionable.

The LFS includes a profile of the jobless. Almost one-third of the unemployed are male. A majority of the unemployed belong to the 15-to-24 age group. Almost 20 percent, or one in every five of the jobless, are college undergraduates. And a slightly smaller proportion of the unemployed, 16.5 percent, are college graduates.

The left-of-center Ibon research foundation had even more bleak words to describe the labor picture. While about 56 percent of all employed workers are classified as wage and salary earners (thus implying some sort of job security), Ibon noted that in fact that category includes some 4.67 million non-regular workers (meaning either casual or contractual or seasonal hires), and 11.21 million workers employed on irregular (mostly verbal, or non-existent) contracts.

The underemployable fixation with high-profile new jobs, such as call centers, therefore needs a less glitzy sense but more widespread complement: an employment drive in agriculture and especially tourism to capture the millions of high school graduates and college undergrads who want to work, but can't. Will the next administration show the way?

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Politicians plan to disenfranchise rivals' voters

ONE FREE TO THE MERRIEST OF TRUTH. IN about eight or nine days, thousands of candidates will claim that they have been cheated, even with the automated elections. In about eight or nine days, we will know if the billions of pesos spent for the automated counting machines is a good investment or a horrible waste of the people's money.

Automated or not, unscrupulous politicians can still defeat the system. One way is something that is the opposite of what the machines may have made possible. That is to prevent thousands of voters from voting. How?

Ironically, the Comelec made this possible by slashing them to the last voting precincts into one because it wants to prevent overspending before the all the precincts. There were 250,000 polling precincts in the 2007 elections; there are only 82,000 precincts for the month's polls. There will be 1,000 voters per precinct. If all who would be voting in the 250,000 precincts before voting 4 threes-hour long ballot with the print that they will see for the first time on election day, as municipal candidate Joey de Venecia said.

Based on informed hunches and instincts media people have come up with guesses, but explained, it will take anywhere from seven to nine minutes to complete the voting process. "Even under the most favorable best-case scenario of mail voters completing the process at one minute," he said, "only 480 voters will be able to cast their votes in the 11 hours allotted for voting."

Of course the Comelec said that some of people in the precinct by closing time will be allowed to vote even if they are in the queue then.

But how many independent voters will stand in line until the wee hours of the morning just to be able to vote? Many of them won't. They will go home without voting. Only the voters who have been bought by the politicians will stay.

In fact, this is the ploy that one presidential candidate Jejomar Binay revealed at a breakfast forum that politicians will do on election day. They will force their supporters ready to vote for them to stay in the queue for as long as seven. That is to prevent the voters for rival candidates who will come later from voting. Only a few of them will have the patience to wait for hours to be able to vote. A great many will go home without voting. That disenfranchises their intended victims and denying their preferred candidates their votes.

The Comelec is not prepared for this emergency. As for back at last year, the Comelec should have conducted a time-and-motion study to see actual time taking the actual voter to cast his or her vote. Dr. Venecia said. The poll body could then have identified the bottlenecks and taken remedial action.

Imagine the billions such a study would still prevent the precincts to supporters of competing candidates' polls for hours. Imagine the hell generated by hundreds of voting lines as a result of vote. Imagine the rampant fear and disgust up to the discomfort of the rooms. Violence among supporters of rival candidates is likely.

Cheating will therefore be accomplished not in the counting of votes but in preventing supporters of rival candidates from voting.

So what can you do as a voter? Go to the polling place early. Be prepared even if you have to wait for hours. It may be advisable to take with you bottled drinks and sandwiches or you don't go hungry and thirsty while waiting. Bring something to read so you don't get bored.

You may think that it is such a big bother just to vote for a candidate who may already be corrupt in the incumbent you want to vote against. No, it is not. It is your duty to vote and discharge your civic function.

It is not only Sen. Dick Gordon who is hot under the collar against opposition polls. Senatorial candidate Fernando Poe Jr. too. He wrote a letter to the Comelec demanding that it implement the provisions of Republic Act 9006 (Fair Election Act) which requires survey firms and media organizations to list its disclosure the identities of survey sponsors and to open their data and methods to the examination of candidates, political parties and the Comelec.

The pertinent provisions of RA 9006 are as follows:

3.2 During the election period, any person, natural as well as juridical, candidate or organization who publishes a survey must likewise publish the following information:

(a) The name of the person, candidate, party or organization who commissioned or paid for the survey;

(b) the name of the person, polling firm or survey organization who conducted the survey;

(c) the period during which the survey was conducted, the methodology used, including the number of individual respondents and the areas from which they were drawn, and the error of sampling, if applicable.

3.3 The survey, together with raw data gathered to support its conclusions, shall be available for inspection, copying and verification by the Comelec or by a registered political party or a bona fide candidate, or by any Comelec accredited citizens' arm.

A Comelec resolution explicitly states that any violation of these provisions shall constitute an election offense.

In addition to the media campaign, the survey firms have published surveys on national candidates without fully identifying the identities of survey sponsors and other survey information," Tolentino said. "Public disclosure of the survey results is the only guarantee that voters are confidential and cannot be disclosed."

The polling firms "have ignored our repeated requests for copies of their survey reports and for the opportunity to examine their data and the processes in conducting surveys," Tolentino said.

These claims of confidentiality violate the election law and should not be condoned. The Comelec cannot abdicate.

The poll body must tell the Comelec to punish the voting survey and media organizations and to require them "to comply with the provisions of the law Election law."

Yet one more twist

A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, SOMEONE asked me if I thought Villar could still rally and give Noynoy a fight. I said the way things were going, I thought Kuya was going to rally and give him a fight. The reason was due to surveys. The only ones who are likely to benefit from the issue of kalaykayan (poverty) was not Villar but Erap, who had a franchise to it with his line, "Kaya para sa mahirap." It was just a strange on who was more believable in the negative issue to kalaykayan or cohesive homogeneity.

On the one, another thing was Villar having a track record of it. Villar has proven to be more believable in this department. At least Erap has the looks (he looks Erap so he is) go lagging his body instead of his collection (he is no poverty-level only income-material wise).

Villar's campaign hasn't been helped by the desperate maneuvers he's taken, all of which have managed only to backfire on him. Not the kind of which is he involved appearance on TV. He might deny authorship of it to death, but no one will believe him. Erap is right to find it suspicious enough that in fact Villar he tried to shield his own mother from knowing what had happened to him.

He has it been helped by his frenzied attempts to show Noynoy has experience in Cockpit-land. He might deny authorship of it as well as death, but no one will believe him. And saying afterward that he is swimming in a sea of blood prop. It's not just that it's ridiculous given that his attacks against Noynoy are grossly political—Noynoy never advertised himself in the course man in this country which makes him vulnerable to attacks of the kind—but he never advertised himself as coming from a family too poor to plunk his brother from the jaws of death, thereby inviting inheritance. It's also that by dressing his dirty tricks to death, he only makes himself out to be a virtue of his favorite president. The one who has tried to tie him to such is Erap himself, a master evildoer.

For all practical purposes, he's finished.

The drama has now shifted elsewhere—to the vice-presidential race. The seemingly unstoppable guy between Mar Roxas and his rivals no longer seems unstoppable. Jojo Binay has pushed to within nine points of him. Will Binay be able to push further?

Interesting question, which depends on the more interesting question, "Why did the guy vote us in the first place?"

My own answer there is that Roxas ran his campaign not from the Nine-Nine campaign strategy for a presidential candidate, but from the strategy for a campaign where the likeliness is the pragmatic, the inspirational is the practical, the heroic is the realistic.

Roxas' approval rating when he was still a presidential aspirant was nothing, certainly a far cry from Villar's. It seemed to disgruntle heights only after he stepped down to become Noynoy's running mate, his association with the former person mounted. Cory Aquino. Soaked by his act of self-sacrifice, which fitted perfectly with the Cory-Edsa story line of change vs. more of the same, country first before self, good triumphing over evil.

That story line was never hammered home by the administration forces of the Arroyo. Or the "impossible dream" story was Noynoy, who saw his numbers tumble. Reason to contrast himself to simple not-so-vicarious message—it seemed Villar made for his personality just corruption of course known aware of election, but that was just what had driven the public to the Noy-Mar campaign from the start. It wasn't just the promise of fighting corruption, it was the promise of ending [illegible] corruption, a kind of corruption that, like the Marcos one, went beyond the theft of money. It was corruption in the sense of someone to who can. The promise he is ending that and takes up a better world—the Edsa story.

It was Roxas who picked it up, to a extent. Then of Villar couldn't find it on the ring on the ground, discarded, spurned. His pitch, as first made originally but which he has now pushed more explicitly, is that he is the end opposition, having been from the start, having opposed GMA from the start, indeed having been involved in the Edsa-2 campaign to—the can't declare it openly under Erap—a time he is the more natural fit for Noynoy.

I don't know how much of an impact this factors has made by endorsing Binay, though Roxas mobilization made of Binay's victory in it. I would say that Cory's last name to the push it, her himself his name, which has merely led around Cha's conjuring of Erap-ik. That took root to gain, since, apparently the line Roxas had at the beginning, which he never used, the line that said he was the junior partner in a project for change that was spearheaded by Noynoy as the presidential, a project worth making great sacrifices for, which was freeing the country from tyranny and building a new world-class place. A vanguard-ness that is very alluring filled.

Binay's beyond-reach because he's entered circles that he has not been invited to before. He can ride because his name dictated rival has exploded. One thing I do know, or suspect, and that is that Noynoy's affirmation that he has only one vice president and that is Roxas is a powerful one. For which Roxas decided not long ago to make it the theme of his campaign ad "reasons." But the strength of the bond could depend on how he it is bolstered by the pitch. Is the affirmation enough? Can it take the place of reconnecting the original message of self-sacrifice to help the inheritor of Edsa 1 and Edsa 2 and the Edsa line set by joining the two streets line by taking to the polls? Well, how we could say.

In an election full of twists and turns, nothing will surprise me anymore.

Failure of election?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

A QUESTION FREQUENTLY HEAR THESE DAYS is: What happens if there is failure of election? Some say, I also have described various scenarios that can happen should there be failure of election.

Although I myself do not count the probability of a failure of national elections, it can be useful to try to understand what failure of election can mean.

The Omnibus Election Code, as a matter of fact, provides for various levels of failure of election. The causes, according to the Code, can be preconscionce, subsequent conscionce, broad conscionce or misfeasance causes. And the effect of these causes can be any one of various situations: (1) the election on any polling place has not been held on the date fixed, or (2) had been suspended before the hour fixed by law for the closing of the voting, or (3) after the voting and during the preparation and the transmission of the election returns or in the custody or canvass thereof, such election results in a failure to elect. And in any of such cases the failure or suspension of election would affect the result of the election.

In these circumstances the Comelec is authorized by law to call, fix the date of, and hold special elections within not to exceed (1) But no voting has taken place on the date fixed by law or even if there was, the election results are hollow and (2) the votes are not sound affect the result of the election.

But the power to declare a failure of election is to be exercised only in the most extreme cases and with which the Comelec should exercise it. "The power to declare a failure of elections should be exercised with the most circumspection, only in those circumstances which demonstrate beyond doubt that the aborted election has been so fundamental as to prevent the will of the electorate from being ascertained and, consequently, the will of the people from being fairly reflected. And in any of such cases the failure or suspension of election would

Change we can believe in?

LETTERS

THAT UP TO ARE NOW CONVINCED that Noynoy Aquino is a righteous person, that he will govern this country toward a moral path. But there is a caveat. While Noynoy's persona, the charisma of a moral leader, it does not follow that those closest the him...from the mayors to barangay officials—will be inspired by him. He needs to spell so why he admire those to take old regime may be going.

The future of this country cannot be put in a two tube. Science professor, engineer, nurse on the basis of a hypothesis. The crime can't be cured of people's lives. But all the same, this coming May, millions of Filipinos will be making an experiment. The hypothesis is Noynoy Aquino.

My biggest fear is that an Aquino presidency will perpetuate the status quo. I have observed 100% good intentioned with yellow ribbons. The same cannot be found in the abode of my friend who has four children, quite less than a hundred pesos a day and does not own a house. In here space of this same presidents and the old policies that allow only those who are in the know to know is missing the point. The point is the poor, more than the rich, are the ones who need good governance.

While it is true that corruption has caused misery in the lives of most Filipinos, it is not their root of all evil, it is not lack of moral concern for our fellowmen. Those who have studied in universities and have become professionals are all aware of their moral duties to country but do they have the desire to help the poor? The fact is, our society remains such a bastion of universalist and unreasonable human love because we are nursing a blindness to a sign of a life well lived, where love, nurturing character-to-character is like discussing money into a foundation pit.

There is nothing objectionable in this claim that a righteous leader will choose the path of moral goodness. But Hamletian fanatics loosen Noynoy because he has not done anything about it to show he means business other the love of the miserable are in order. His contention that the decision regarding this land Hacienda belongs more than a benefit of any moral knee. If he feels that he is powerless in resolving this conflict, should I have a reason to believe he will be able to face the moment of truth and confront the oligarchs in the form of the Cojuangcos? Will he be able to lead to access unlike anomalies of drunken and hopelessness so we can believe again true all that we have always dreamed of?

A single man cannot bring people together to fight. Just as the his comradeship. Further, it has to be a moral ideal that all of us Filipinos can believe in. The reason why this 2010 election is so full of hope is that as a people, we should be sure as saying that a poor infant dying of hunger and a young child incarcerated in a blind because are morally unacceptable. But the hardest thing to do is believe this. The reason is we don't believe this. Or simply put, the status quo does not believe this.

Will Noynoy be the "change we can believe in"?

—CHRISTOPHER JUAN B. IMBZON,
Philosophy faculty,
Ateneo de Davao University

Party defections clarify our election choices

"MADISON GRIP" SEEKS TO BE THE call of the hour for the members of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD as it is hit by worst ever wave of defections. What else is to be expected when a ship looks as if its going to sink?

Like Teodoro, the administration presidential candidate, has given up his post as chair of the ruling party reportedly to go full blast with his campaign. But talk is also rife that he is not fully supported by President Macapagal-Arroyo. There are also reports about the lack of funds for the party's candidates while in leaders are thinking rich-to-

Wise vote is for competence, not emotion

FOR FILIPINO VOTERS, PERSONALITIES—not popularity—should be their guide in choosing the next president of the Philippines. Never again should voters be placed over competence.

Filipinos should learn from the past coups, political killings, kwentasan, assassinations and others that ended the era after the People Power revolt in 1986.

Never again should Filipinos allow themselves to be carried by the slogan but, instead, look at the platforms, political experience and clean slate. The next Filipino should vote wisely and decisively in electing the next president. The future of 90 million Filipinos is at stake and it is not for sale or fraud elections.

—PEDRO REYNARES II,
#727 Taylo St., Makati City

Sloppy record-keeping means E-Day confusion

I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM A REAL-CLUTCH CONVENING my voter registration record with the Commission on Elections.

Last April 7, I received via e-mail containing a link to the Comelec website where I may verify if I could check my assigned precinct number online. I proceeded to do so. Lo and behold, my record did not exist. That very same day I went Comelec Intramuros on e-mail about the situation, but until now I have yet to receive a reply. I made the move to check with Comelec Makati, where I am registered, being a longtime Makati resident. I was told that the availability for now or cancellation or enforcement in the Comelec website was beyond Comelec Makati's control and was with Comelec Intramuros. But I am worried that my updated registration details were to no file and, in fact, I was given my precinct number over the phone.

I would like to add that I applied for which I received my voter's identification on July 23, 2009, complete with biometrics capture.

Last April 27, I received another e-mail regarding the voter precinct finder facility of the Comelec website and again proceeded to check. It appeared that my details had finally been recorded. Yes, but this was when I discovered the glitch. The uploaded information is wrong: 1007, with no biometrics info available although we stopped voting precinct number is three.

I checked with Comelec again. After all, we are on the transaction of 17 April. I would use cards for a 13-year-old registration information, several my precinct number is three, to reminded Comelec about my situation. I also called Comelec Makati. Both were as surprised as I was. I demanded that the information be corrected but I was told by a Ms. Nicole that it could not be done anymore since the supporting records had been sealed and I would just have to wait for the next election for the record to be updated. Until not my voter's ID to be issued.

Absolutely ridiculous, don't you think? They said they where would have been an error with my validation and that they had just submitted my info record to Comelec Manpower. But I had applied for validation nine long months ago, and surely they were already "automated." It would have been very easy to rectify. I told them, besides, there was no mention of registration until December 2009 and if I had to appear again for another round of biometrics capture, I would have gladly submitted to that. They had no complete contact information, for heaven's sake! But no, they didn't even have a clue that there was a problem—until I told them that it was my 1007 record that was uploaded.

Come it down! And resigned: me that I'll be allowed to vote, please give my gross to the genuine inefficiency and ineptitude of the Comelec personnel and, worse, their ignorance of a simple problem that could have been corrected if only they had the proper oversight to assess checking mistakes. It is sad that this multiplied several hundredth to thousand times would cause massive confusion during election day.

—JOSE "JOEY" L. MONTALBO II,
<joeymontano41@yahoo.com>

GMA's moment of truth

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO SHOULD face reality: denying the 2010 elections are just around the corner, and it's just a few more months before her term ends on June 30, 2010, and then she will have to bow out of power.

She also made several attempts to change the Commission through people's manual's and a constitutional assembly, but all these attempts failed. The Filipino people would not allow them.

We should all be grateful to God that we were able to survive nine years of President using.

—REYNOLD TOLENTINO JR.,
Sta. Salamanca ave. 1, Santa Ma.,
Nueva Ecija, Cabiz City 4106

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Across the NATION

Plots to kill Duterte followers bared

SUNDRIFT Members of the Philippine National Police Scout in Region 11 listen to instructions during their sendoff at Camp Catitipan in Davao City to augment the security force of four provinces—Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley during the May 10 elections.

DAVAO CITY—MURDER PLOTS AGAINST MEMBERS OF the Hugpong sa Tawong Lungsod party led by Mayor Rodrigo Duterte were uncovered after persons allegedly ordered to carry them out spilled the beans, disclosing even the masterminds.

Party-list Rep. Pastor Alcover of the Alliance for Nationalism and Democracy (Ang), quickly dismissed the plots and his alleged key role in ending the drama conceived by Duterte's camp.

"It's your mayor's drama. He made them his (Ubo) (deep penetration agents) in a plot to point me as behind the killings in Davao," Alcover said in a radio interview on Friday.

The plots were disclosed last week by Bernard Carreta, a staff member of Ang, and a certain Willy Sison, Ang driver, who "surrendered" to Bendel Arizala, Hugpong secretary general and candidate for city councilor.

At least five others who are former members of Ang, an anti-communist group, executed an affidavit that supposedly detailed missions to kill 16 members of Duterte's party.

Carreta and Sison were presented to the media by Arizala, who said the plan was aimed at creating a scenario of unrest in Davao and intensifying a "state of emergency" beyond the May 10 elections.

Arizala said the police should investigate the disclosures of the dead members and if found to be true, to file charges against Alcover.

Sison said he had driven his boss, Jimmy Hernaluyo, a military officer handling the security of Ang, around Davao to take photos of people waiting for Duterte.

Alcover said he knew Carreta and Sison only by face. The two, he said, are former members of Abu Main, a paramilitary group notorious for killing suspected communists and their supporters in the 1990s.

MAYOR Rodrigo Duterte campaigns with Liberal Party-bandied bets Benigno Aquino III and vice presidential candidate Manuel Roxas in Davao City.

AMY CALMA, DAVAOPUBLICNEWS.NET

While stressing that he was not behind any murder plot, Alcover said it was Duterte who was cooking up something evil against him.

"Have I killed someone in Davao? Am I the one who has a record of killings? Am I being investigated by the Commission on Human Rights?" he added.

Alcover and Rep. Jocelyn Pulgar of Bayan, another party-list group, have been publicly excoriating Duterte for his alleged links with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army.

In a political rally held in Pagadian (ibid), Alcover and Pulgar branded a tarpaulin that bore the photo of Duterte shaking hands with Communist leader Commander Parago. The two lawmakers were escorted by dozens of soldiers.

In February, Alcover and Pulgar were declared "persona non grata" in Davao in a resolution unanimously adopted by the city council. The declaration stemmed from the constant attacks initiated by the two lawmakers against Duterte and other city officials.

Author list Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao

Party-list candidate gets death threats

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE RIBBON PINNED on the top of the letter is similar to the campaign logos of political parties and candidates.

But it was colored black. And the words that followed ruined rumors that candidates identified with military party-list organizations and groups are being targeted for attacks as the May 10 elections draw near.

Jose Reynaldo Joy Perquia, a candidate for councilor of this city under the party-list group Bayan Muna, said he received a letter with the black ribbon and containing death threats on April 29.

The nine-page letter was sent by mail to his home in Jaro district from a postal station in Iloilo a day before.

It accused Perquia of alleged links with the underground Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA).

"We know for a fact that you are a candidate supported by the CPP/NPA ... Ignoring this warning means that your are indeed an ally of the CPP/NPA, or even as one of them. If this is so, you are considered an enemy of democracy and the rest is up to us," said the letter signed by a certain Ramon Sucrose J. Ledesma, who claimed to be the spokesperson of the Western Visayas Liberation Fist Front.

Ledesma said the organization he purportedly represents were previously unheard of.

The letter, dated April 26, also warned Perquia and his family on his alleged links to the underground communist movement.

"Wala ka bayan sa isa ka black ribbon dun will remind you that your life, as well as (that of) your family, is only a privilege. If death becomes you, may you rest in peace," said Ledesma in his letter.

Perquia, a former leader of the militant League of Filipino Students who was detained several times during the anti-Marcos dictatorship movement in the 1980s, denied the threats as part of the campaign against candidates belonging to or supported by militant groups.

"This is part of the continued attacks and harassment against us by linking us to the armed and underground movements," Perquia said the he learns on Friday as he blamed the letter on anti-communist groups with military links.

Perquia said the letter was part of a campaign against Bayan Muna and its allied organizations under the Makabayan coalition.

He cited the disbarment of peasants and other campaign materials of these groups that were painted over with antiinsurgency slogans.

Peace advocates defend fresh talks between gov't, Moro rebs

ILIGAN CITY—PEACE ACTIVISTS IN Mindanao have closed ranks to defend the ongoing negotiations between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) from opposition bent on derailing it.

"[We] call upon all peace-loving Mindanaoans to unite and remain steadfast in our peace efforts," read a statement issued last week by the grassroots-based Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC).

The statement was in response to the April 29 petition filed before the Supreme Court by North Cotabato Gov. Gov. Emmanuel Pifiol, which seeks to compel the government to make public a draft peace pact it was supposedly bent on signing with the Moro rebel group.

Pifiol asked the high court to stop the government from inking any peace deal with the MILF unless this was disclosed to the public and that consultations on it concerned were conducted.

"Who is public and who should be consulted are questions that continue to bedevil the peace movements considering the thousands of consultative consultations and dialogues already conducted by the Republic Unified Command and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (Opapp) since the Supreme Court struck down the ARMM-AD in 2008 as unconstitutional," the MPC statement said.

"In each of these consultations, the overwhelming recommendation of the Mindanaoans is 'to continue the peace talks.' That is exactly what the government and the MILF is heeding now—to continue with the talks and find ways and means of avoiding the armed conflict through peaceful means," it added.

Sabotaging peace negotiations

The MPC said the fresh petition was a "renewed attempt by the Pifiol brothers of North Cotabato to sabotage the peace negotiations."

It was Pifiol, who was among those who led the petition that eventually resulted in the junking of the controversial memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain.

Pifiol had repeatedly said he was not antipeace but was only trying to protect the welfare of his constituents.

He said living in an area run by the MILF was unacceptable to the people of North Cotabato.

"Instead of resorting to the fragrance of peace," the Pifiols could have easily sought settlement with the peace panels to get updates and briefings on the progress of the negotiations instead of dragging the Supreme Court into what is clearly a governance controversy," the MPC said.

It said the peace panels were still about to discuss "most compelling" issues for the May meeting. These include the agenda on facilitating the safe return of the IDPs (internally displaced persons), conduct clearance operation for unexploded ordnance in core battle zones, and approval of the terms of reference of the Civilian Protection Component of the International Monitoring Team.

"These cannot be sacrificed ... by needless temporary restraining order," the group stressed.

Ironically information drive

While it said Pifiol's petition was too premature because no peace agreement was to be signed yet, the MPC called on the government peace panel to "intensify its information and advocacy drive so that people would no longer be misled and swayed by black propaganda."

MPC executive director Mary Ann Arnado said peace advocates would hold today a "Peace Power Day" at the capitol building of North Cotabato in Kidapawan City and a "Route of the Peace Talks" rally to inform the public about the real score of negotiations between the government and the MILF.

"Let us not be dissuaded by black propaganda and emotional persuasion. Together let us find out the truth," said Arnado, who was named 2009 Peacemaker by the World Vision International Peace Prize.

She said her group was worried that the attacks on the peace process could be "an oldest electoral ploy to capitalize on the so-called anti-Moro sentiments in the run through for the May 2010 election."

"We ... appeal to the hearts of the Pifiol brothers to give peace a chance in Mindanao and especially in North Cotabato, whose people have been victimized over and over again by this lingering armed conflict, the peace process of which, has also been spoiled over and over again by politicians like them," the MPC statement said.

Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

Bayer presents the 12 finalists of 2010

Bayer Young Environmental Envoy

Bishop to Pampanga voters: Choose good

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—PAMPANGA Archbishop Rodolfo Aniceto on Sunday urged Kapampangans to "choose good and reject evil" when they vote for the country's next set of leaders on May 10.

In a pastoral statement read in Roman Catholic churches in Pampanga on Sunday, the 73-year-old Aniceto also asked the archdiocese's 200 priests "not to allow the power to be corrupted by using the position as help, deliverable and false hopes in gaining, endorsements and other forms of gambling."

Voters in Pampanga, which can deliver more than 1.2 million votes, need "reject patronage and unprincipled politics that is perpetuated by dynasties," he said.

The "culture of bribery, vote buying, deception, intimidation and violence" should also be refused.

Aniceto urged voters instead to support candidates "who will wrongly fight for the dignity, protection and promotion of human life in all its forms and the environment."

Priests, on the other hand, need to "proclaim and encourage our faith enough to participate in bringing about the desire of God for our beloved archdiocese and our country."

The four-page statement was read a week after he leaders in the province met with Aniceto to seek his spiritual and moral guidance for this year's elections, two priests told the Inquirer.

Aniceto first gave the counsel "choose good and reject evil" during the 2007 elections when he campaigned for Gov. Mark Lapid, provincial board member Lilia Pineda and his priest, now Gen. Eddie Panlilio, tried for the post.

Panlilio and Pineda will again face off in the race's gubernatorial race.

Aniceto said the dictum of a "new leader" cannot be found in political parties and platforms.

"Politics, as practiced by most Filipinos, promotes conflict instead of peace, division instead of unity, hatred instead of charity. Politics in itself cannot provide us with the concepts and the values that can bring about a more mature, more prosperous, prosper and pro-God Philippines," he said.

Aniceto said "politics needs evangelization [while] political platforms need the Gospels."

PAMPANGA bishop Paciano Aniceto prays that voters will elect good candidates on May 10. INQUIRER PHOTO

Priests, he said, "do not need to be politicians to receive morality ... The Gospel message reminds any Kristiano that a political party is our device."

Aniceto said voters and candidates have a "reciprocal bond."

"If we are wise honest politicians we must be honest citizens who must not sell our votes ... If we were politicians who will defend the sanctity of life and the family we must first have healthy households and voters. If we were politicians who are corrupt, we must first have men and women of moral integrity," he said.

Aniceto also called on voters and candidates to ensure the success of the first automated elections in the country, urging voters to be vigilant in preventing manipulation of election results. Rosario Ovejera, Inquirer Central Luzon

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Sanchez widow declares she will run for Batangas gov

ITD. TOMAS, BATANGAS—MAYOR EDNA Sanchez hesitantly announced in a press conference here on Friday that she would run for governor, taking the place of her husband Armand, who died on Tuesday night.

Julian went to the Comelec Guards in Lipa City and pressed before announcing that she would take the place of her husband.

"Inappropriate for my father to ill will continue the fight of (Armand)," she said.

Julian sought the help of Batanguenos so she would continue her mission.

"I accept the challenge of continuing what my husband Armand has started. I ask for your help to bring back decency in Batangas," she said in Filipino.

The widow, however, has yet to declare who will replace her as mayoral candidate of the Team.

Her husband Tupacio Sanchez's lawyers and allies would file her certificate of candidacy within the day but failed to do so.

At around 4 p.m., she attended Mass for her husband at Lipa Cathedral before proceeding to the provincial capitol in front of the church.

The provincial capitol is the capitol of the province.

Julian is the second term in Mr. Tomas mayor and was seeking her last term.

Lipa is the hallmark of late Vilma Santos-Recto.

Edwards and Cesar Ermita, and political allies of the Nacionalista Party (NP). The incumbent People's Coalition and Lakas-Kampi Partido were present at the rally.

Julian has yet to file her CoC, according to lawyer Glenn Penalla, head of the provincial Commission on Election office, in a phone interview on Sunday.

Former governor Armand died from complications of a stroke he suffered on Monday afternoon while campaigning in Lipa City.

Sanchez, 57, who was running to unseat the governorship under the GO fell into a coma after undergoing a three-hour operation at Liberty Christian Medical Center in Lipa.

He died at 7:20 p.m., according to his running mate, Edwin Rendon, who belongs to the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

He was elected mayor of Mr. Tomas town in 2001 and became governor of Batangas in 2004. Maxwell Erika Lesaba, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Army execs say military may go for Gibo, Erap

AT LEAST FOUR ARMY OFFICERS SAID ELother former Defense Secretary Gilberto "Gibo" Teodoro or former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada may carry the military vote in the May 10 election.

The statements were made on the last day of local election voting in a military camp where voting was monitored 11 days before the May 10 polls.

The officials, who all requested anonymity for personal reasons, said voters in the military may go all out for the candidates who are for the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

"Teodoro is strong among military members because he was a former Defense Secretary and had pushed for greater benefits for soldiers and the modernization of the military," said one official.

Another official said deposed President Estrada had strong support among the military.

"Erap may get huge votes from the military because as President he had a good working relationship with the military."

Another officer, however, said the chain of command is not enforced when it comes to election preferences. "Each soldier may vote for anyone without pressure or intimidation from his or her superior," he said.

Still another official said he voted for the presidential candidate who can unify the Filipinos.

The officials said the military would continue to focus on its counterinsurgency campaign during the elections, but they will keep watch over several areas which have a history of political violence. ... James Gabilo Sithil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

E-VAT and WATERED-DOWN CHEAPER MEDICINES ACT

ARE NOT PRO-POOR

AS MAR ROXAS CLAIMS

Senator Mar Roxas, you have always **CLAIMED** to be pro-poor with your battle cry of **"Lalaban Tayo"** and image dressing as **"Mr. Palengke"** and **"Mr. Padyak"**.

MAR ROXAS - PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF E-VAT LAW

Senator Loren Legarda publicly criticized this law.
She foresaw the HUNGER that this law would cause our poor people.

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MAR ROXAS - PRINCIPAL AUTHOR OF A WATERED-DOWN VERSION OF THE CHEAPER MEDICINES ACT

WHY DID YOU NOT PUSH FOR, AND SPONSOR THE ORIGINAL VERSION?

Senator Loren Legarda opposed your version and she supported the Biron-Suplico Version.

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In fact, **Senator Mar Roxas**, you have sponsored laws which have been a continuing and oppressive burden to the poor. With these kind of laws, how can you claim to be **PRO-POOR?**

RONALD A. LUMBAO
National Chairman

PMAP

People's Movement Against Poverty

Pangasinan new battlefield for lawmen-turned-pols

By Edu Punay and Yolanda Sotelo
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—FOR 11 YEARS, Leopoldo Bataoil had waged war against all forms of criminality in various parts of the country.

"My life was full of action then, 24/7. Every time I set my foot out of the house, my family did not know if I will come back alive," said Bataoil.

That ethos he retired but rose as police director, the "happier people on earth" were his wife Gina and daughters Carmela and Angelu, because, finally, he could spend quality time with them.

But barely a month after his retirement on Oct. 22, Bataoil would see himself fighting again, this time, in a new battlefield: Pangasinan's second district.

Bataoil, who is Dagupan City candidate on the district, is one of the 10 former military and police officials now seeking elective posts or reelection in the province.

"Mine, I'm always out of the house again, trying to cope with a very hectic campaign schedule. In a day, I attempt three to seven meetings," he said.

His experiences may be what the other retired police and military officers are now going through in their bids for elective posts in the other parts of the province.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel III, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., is running for representative in the sixth district.

Among the unusual cases are former Vice Adm. Virgilio Mianda (San Manuel), former Director Alfonso Aluzan (Laoac), former Commodore Jesus Casilan (San Carlos City) and former Director Ismael Fabiano (Villasis).

Gen. Aurelio Espino Jr., a former police senior superintendent, is seeking reelection, while former Director Reynaldo Velasco and Marcelo Kevanne are running for reelection as mayor in Sto. Tomas and Binalonan, respectively. Rosales Mayor Roderick Bautista, a former chief inspector, is seeking a third term.

Bataoil said it was not difficult to adjust from a life in the streets as a police officer to a politician.

"In a way, and even when I was in the service, I've been used to touching base with people, understanding their culture and personalities even if they turn their backs so you'd campaign for them," he said.

In television interviews, Sr. Insp. Lupage, former vice chancellor of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, and now program chair at the Lyceum Northwestern University graduate school in Dagupan City said retired police officers might have been influenced by their Sanctions when they decided to run for public office.

"Most of them have been dealing with the public, with the community. So they are attuned to civil functions. And because of their backgrounds, they know and feel the thinking of the community and know what to be attuned with in terms of [illegible]," he said.

REFLECTIONIST Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino Jr., a former police official

FORMER AFP chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Espino has been widely recognized for improving the provincial government's fiscal services, such as health care, agricultural services and employees' welfare.

Velasco said there was no clutch that top police or military officials leave a different kind of scientific and "fine not fit to occupy public offices.

"Those who are crying that are those defeated by the generals and colonels. Look, let's not even talk about generals, let's talk about corporals. I know of a corporal in Batangas, who is a mayor of a big town and yet he ran it efficiently. I know of a chief of police in Bataan, who's making his town better now," Velasco said.

He said many of them had gained (senior) degrees and have some "good experience."

"To run a town, you need expertise. Will you just allow a high school level or dropout to become mayor?" Velasco said.

He said an ex-Marawi police commander he knew how to source funds for the projects in his town.

"I give them as accomplishment report every year. And I ask my constituents: Did I pass your standard? Did I use your fund well? But it is always your money sense," he said.

But with few of the six former police and military generals now appearing in the province's political battlefield, some Pangasinenses doubted if they would not use their influence to mobilize troops to support their election bids.

But former PNP chief Arturo Lomibao, who did not pursue his plan to run for representative in the fourth district, said: "If I'm true police and military officials] want to serve, let the people decide. If they feel like we're still enough to give service, why not?"

Pilgrimage for clean polls held in Pangasinan

SOLDAD, PANGASINAN—At least 6,000 Catholics, including representatives from the police and military, walked from Infanta to City to this pilgrimage town on Saturday to pray for honest, orderly and peaceful elections.

"We dedicate this walk to God, as a sacrifice and with a spirit of penance to beseech, ecclesiastic and peaceful elections," said Fr. Arvin Ochoa in an opening prayer in front of the Infanta Catholic church.

"We pray that the Lord will give us good leaders in our land," he said.

Ochoa began the 12-kilometer "Walk with God" in 1989 to offer sacrifice and thanksgiving. "There were just a hundred of us then, but through the years, our group became bigger," he said.

The group left Urdaneta at 4 a.m. and arrived here at about 9 a.m.

"It's also a petition walk for those who wanted to ask something from Mama Mary," Ochoa said.

The annual Pangasinan event has been a popular pilgrimage destination because of the miraculous image of the Our Lady of Manaoag.

Bing Cruz, a businesswoman from Quezon City, said this is the second year that she had joined the activity after hearing about it from a relevant friend.

"I came here to ask the Lord to help me go through a big problem in their name. And He gave it to me," Cruz said.

Chief Insp. Swakanod de Jesus, police chief of Binga town, said he had been joining the walk in the last eight years.

"This has been our vow," said De Jesus' wife, Shanai, after the three-hour walk.

At least 350 soldiers from the military's Northern Luzon Command, led by Maj. Miguel Cadoro, joined the walk. Chief Supt. Gualberto Acosta, Ilocos police director, led the contingent of 135 police chiefs from the region.

"This is the biggest number of participants, so far," Ochoa said.

With Ed Lordelmo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

PARTICIPANTS in the 12-kilometer "Walk with God" from Urdaneta City to the pilgrimage town of Manaoag at noon on May 1 to pay tribute to the image of the Virgin Mary.

Smartmatic clears warehouse of PCOS machines

CABUYAO, LAGUNA—SMARTmatic TIM has emptied its warehouse here of the last batch of the official vote-counting machines and the spare machines a week before the May 10 election.

Nearly 1,000 operators in the warehouse are shut down and it will only be working if there are certain replacements to be done, which we will find out during the testing or sealing procedures next week," said Cesar Flores, president of Asia Pacific Enterprises.

The final testing and sealing procedures in all 77,360 precincts nationwide could be done May 7 to 9 or not later than three days before the election, said Renato Garcia, consultant of the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

The final testing will be done to the remote precincts in the country, he said.

The last five, about the remaining five percent of the total number of the PCOS machines, were brought out of the central warehouse here yesterday afternoon to the municipal products in Calamba, and the cities of Calamba and San Pablo in Laguna.

Smartmatic-TIM also shipped out on Sunday not more than 2,000 remaining contingency PCOS to the Mindanao region.

"If there is a problem, the BEI (Board of Election Inspector) should go to our tech support. If it can't be fixed, they need to call our call center, and if still not fixed, software protocols to send the replacement (machine)," he said.

The replacement of the PCOS should be done in not more than two hours, while voting should continue normally.

Meanwhile, the last remaining canvassing hits or centers that continued the laptop servers, printers and all other materials for the elections, as well as spare external batteries for the PCOS were also distributed to different municipalities in Laguna.

"Everything is being done. It's a sale, a clearance," said Flores. —Maricar Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Cavite labor, Church step up poll education

BIÑAN, CAVITE—LABOR groups in Cavite stepped up their voters' education on Labor Day as they prepared for several occasions when the country holds its first automated elections on May 10.

The May One 2010 Commemorative Committee, an ecumenical initiative, and the Solidarity of Cavite Workers, gathered around 2,000 workers from an electronics company and church groups on Saturday at the Inner West Elementary School for a forum that discussed a possible failure of elections, a holdover practice of vote-and-selling by politicians.

"It's part of our mission in the church to go out with the people and not just be confined within our enclosures. May the Lord help us for a clean, honest and credible election," said Fr. Joe Baloloy, priest of the Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Biñan town.

Vote-buying

Baloloy said sometime in the past, he opposed Biñan's vote as a "failing school" but prompted him to go abroad for a time due to security threats.

He also said ballot switching and vote-buying were rampant in the province, especially in the upland towns of Silang, Amadeo and Magallanes.

"Politicians would pay supporters at their opponents so they would not vote. Then, they would mark the fingers with indelible ink to make it look like they have voted," he said.

Ricky Pangilinan, president of the IMF-Workers labor union, said one of their members reported that a local candidate distributed P500 to Luisa residents on Friday.

Trade unions

"Politicians were worse since because they know they usually rest block voting," he said.

Nicole Curro of the People's International Observers Mission, an overseas election watchdog, said foreigners would be deployed to a number of polling precincts on May 10 to observe the elections.

Baloloy said they were encouraging voters to be vigilant and report to the government incidents during the elections and report them to the authorities.

In the afternoon, the workers held a march calling for fair and honest elections.

Militant groups Bayan Muna, Gabriela and Anakpawis are Partylist and Pinglakas ng Manggagawa sa Timog Katagalugan-Kilusang Mayo Uno also held a mullanyan rallies in Calauan by City to Legaspi, Lucena City to Sariaya and Lopa City to Tayabas.

The Partido ng Manggagawa had a motorcade of 20 vehicles and 200 motorcycles in Quezon. Cavite and Laguna dubbed as the "Stronghold" pa in Tondalong Region III Region IV-A" to Tondalong Region III Party-list in the Congress. —Marlene Chico, Inquirer Southern Luzon

A MEMBER of a Bagobo-Tagabawa clan sharpens a wooden stake (left) that would be used to sacrifice a native pig in a ritual feast (Center). These feasts have become commonplace during the election because candidates in many parts of the Cordillera often ask the blessings of the spirits of their ancestors and Kalinga (superior being or god) so they would succeed.

Pols stick to tradition to guide campaign

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—Despite the automation of the elections, candidates in Benguet just can't ignore tradition in their bid to win votes.

Most, if not all, of the candidates are educated and professionals, yet they still refer to having to follow local beliefs or old, time-honored.

These beliefs live in the souls of elder villagers and local leaders could not be belittled in modernized period.

Apolinario Cantad, a Ibaloi, said a "manbabaog" (native chief or diviner) presided over a ritual to mark the start of the re-construction from December.

"A small pig was offered. The manbabaog said the pig's life was okay, which meant I was off to a good start," he said.

In old Barangay Nibaliw, a candidate for councilor in Bugo town.

A day before the start of the official campaign on March 26, he gathered his supporters and calls close to announce his bid. He said a manbabaog was present to seek the blessing of Kabunian (supreme deity or god).

The belief in the help of the "unseen" counsel through the native priest would spill over to the campaign. Here, the words of a diviner become source of comfort that guide him in his decisions.

Board Member Mariano Rasa, now running for mayor of Itogon town, said it is taboo for politicians to criticize or malign other candidates.

"That would not sit well with the elders. That's why candidates should only talk about their achievements and don't offer [talk] bad.

Rasa said avoiding opponents during the campaign would backfire on one's own chances of winning.

Even Board Member Nelson Dangwa would have to abide by his family's decision to run either for local executive position or vice-governor Samuel Dangwa, his father, decides to run for a political position.

Nelson, a native of Bagnagan town, said what must be avoided in counting the oldest in when they died their wisdom, advice and presence are greatest.

Millionne should remain respectful to elders since the word of elders spread fast, said Daniel Wild, former chair of Barangay Angalo-ay village in town.

"Local candidates can't refuse when the elders ask for an animal to be offered," he said. "That's the wish of the elders. If it refuse to appease it."

Benguet Board Member Nestor Bado Cantil, a former Catholic priest, said there is nothing wrong with tribal practices if these are meant for a good purpose.

In Ifugao town, a common ritual is called "sugtungan," which spiked Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos' way recognition, confer settlement, clarity or even before someone takes a board examination.

The ritual involves a swallowed animal, normally a chicken, which is examining others on the gods and spirits. The manbabaog would become instrumental for the concerned person's success or victory.

Even dreams would have an impact on one's political campaign.

Pedro Dumiz, chair of Barangay Bulalo Mankayan town, said a candidate who dreamed of having a big deer with a strong carcass, or one who climbs a big and tall tree, would have big chances of victory.

To the elders, dreams could mean victory.

"I know of a town, now who won because the elders interpreted his dreams positively," said Dumiz.

Cantad said it is a bad omen when one is talking on stage and their droppings fall on him. Another bad sign is when a relative meets an accident or dies during the campaign, he said.

Cantad, a former mayor of Baguio town, said the candidate should not fix a while to go down in his terms if these things happen.

In fact, he said, there are still those who believe that attending a wake would be bad for candidates.

"But today the belief has diminished," Cantad said.

Kabayan Ibaloi Pambansa Agalam said on the day the manbabaog would lead the rituals in mark the start of one's political bid, a candidate should engage in sexual intercourse with his wife.

"It seems, that would be a taboo," he said.

Benguet Vice 372,511 (2007 census) residents, with 193,838 registered voters. The province's major tribes are Kankanaey, Ibaloi, Kalinga-ya and Karen. With a report from Abraham Mateo, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Mountain Province bet to campaign on 'wheels'

By Hanna C. Lazareno
Women's Feature Service

BAGUIO CITY—CAN it 39-year-old brother is a wheelchair user is a record now that 39 candidates vying for eight seats in the election?

Inspired by the life of Grace Padaca, the public-minded governor of Isabela who defeated a political dynasty in her province, Akiza Bangalisan hopes she could be like Padaca when elected. Bank (once about playing into politics.

Help for the handicapped

Bangalisan wants to prove that whatever able persons can do, she can do better. But unlike the Isabela governor, Barig is Mountain Province, where Bangalisan hopes to secure a council seat, doesn't have a political dynasty to bring down. He said is set on widening doors for handicapped persons who are other victims of discrimination in the workplace.

Barig (pronounce it, 39, 2007 census) is a fifth-class municipality. Mainly accessed by catchment, Barig is on the eastern side of Mountain Province.

Having lived in one of the few Barig areas of Mountain Province where some cities could only be reached by foot, Bangalisan inspired. In fact his case, she has to be carried and dragged and can only count of four brothers and other relatives who trained to support her education and campaign activities.

Her mother, who since was and served as a barangay councilor, and her youngest brother who, too, for barangay kagawad, has always been her back in the past, knew the rights they have to go through during the campaign. "But they told that we still do our best. Whether I win or not, what's important is that we did what we can," Bangalisan said.

Program of government

Bangalisan crossed an acronym to capitalize her program of government—GAMO, which stands for Social services; Educational services; Non-land-ship and Development of a new and permanent Barig.

She said she knows that many deserving youth in her locality do not get the chance to have proper education because of lack of financial resources. That is why she would propose more scholarship programs for them if she gets elected. She promises most of sports equipment for the youth to support physical fitness and is a way to divert their attention from bad vices such as drugs, prohibited liquor, beside to violent attitude as a form of social service.

Tourism development

She also wants to focus on tourism development in Barig, which boasts of undiscovered tourist spots, and to declare some of the municipality's forest cover as protected areas.

For handicapped people, she said

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Tribe sees Erap win in pig bile

ERAP ESTRADA supporter wears a sticker of her candidate.

Front page A1

sacrificial pig yesterday, mentioning (in this order) Divine Tribe delivered the good news to deposed President Joseph Estrada, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP) standard bearer.

Tribe, who led the ritual butchering of a black native pig at the Bagobo tribulan (kraal) in Tondo, said his ritual name is Apo-war Binay and exclusive Sen. Bulgar Estrada, and the healthy bile source that the former President would serve on May 10.

"I see your victory," Tribe told Estrada, who sat about two meters from where the animal was slaughtered.

The tribal ceremony (Tagalog) was organized by retired Cordillera professionals who belong to the Benevolent Association of Retired Persons (BARP).

Around 700 BARP members and PMP supporters joined the feast where organizers butchered a horse, two carabaos, a cow and a pig. The contributions of sacrificial animals is usually reserved for the Ibaloi's richest and most honored members.

Anything for votes

Estrada told the crowd he was a little stirred about the ritual.

"Mahirap ka pagkainin niyo sa akin iyong lamang-loob. Marjo kinabuhan ako. Pero kakainin ko ito kung doon niyo ako. (I was a little apprehensive about this ritual. I thought I was supposed to eat the innards. But I wanted really eat them if it would earn me your votes)," he said, drawing laughter from the audience.

Estrada had campaigned here and in other parts of the Cordillera when he ran for president in 1998, but he said it was his first time to see a pig butchered in a ritual.

Wrong headgear

Estrada and Binay accommodated requests from the crowd and donned the Ibaloy headgear tapuy, a native dance mimicking the flight of birds.

But they did not notice some members of the crowd who were chuckling as Binay was wearing a headdress (traditionally worn by Ibaloy women).

A couple of BARP members, who refused the Sun. just said they did not know how to tell Estrada's campaign handlers about Binay's feminine headgear.

Estrada, however, was spared from ridicule when he was asked by a group of women wearing traditional Ibaloy dresses to wear a feathered headgear meant for fairies.

Barbecue recipe

Put all his big plans about food security and forging lasting peace in Mindanao aside, Estrada flew on radio station AM88 on Saturday around midnight, appeared at a loss when asked what he planned for small vendors.

Estrada told a woman vendor who asked the question "Ambrosyo yun. Ugnayan sa pati ito sa isang ating kilalang pero mas unang binatil ng barbecue mo. (That's a hard question. Perhaps if you made your barbecue more delicious, you could make more money)?"

Apparently not expecting such a response, the woman groaned on, only to hear the former President repeat part of his campaign agenda—completing it by about the "poor getting poorer and the rich getting richer" under the Arroyo administration.

In the end, Estrada offered to ask someone to study the plight of Aroyo vendors, particularly the idea of exempting them from securing business permits.

Losing his touch?

The episode was the latest in a string of anecdotes showing the former President losing his touch when it came to specific matters of government. Often, he talked about the problems of peace and order and food security—the cornerstones of his presidential campaign.

Not long ago, Estrada was asked by a TV reporter in a provincial radio about his platform for health care. He replied: "Hindi ko alam ... Mahalimuyak ito sa ... Pero hindi na ito ang I don't know. I'm forgotten. Can I give my answer tomorrow?"

Sensing the awkwardness of the situation, Estrada aide reminded Estrada that he had allocated a significant amount of budget for health care during his abbreviated presidency.

But for all his shortcomings in the campaign, Estrada is probably as serious and as determined as any of the other presidential contenders.

Despite a surgically repaired knee, he has covered more than 90 percent of all provinces, according to his media handlers.

Better version of Erap

His wife, former Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, notwithstanding said the public was now seeing a "better version" of her husband compared with the one who ran and won in 1998.

"After (he) said a half years of incarceration, I think he has learned his lesson. He's wiser and I think he will be able to rule better this time," she told reporters in Baguio.

Estrada arrived here yesterday morning to what could be his final provincial sorties before the May 10 elections.

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BDO

Pastor Quiboloy anoints Teodoro

From page A1

Quiboloy's text, called "Kingdom of Jesus Christ, The Name Above Every Name," claims to have four million followers in the Philippines and abroad.

"Tonight he is to be known to all Filipinos that the Almighty in their two appointed the president of this nation. He is to set-tle ... than Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro," Quiboloy told thousands of cheering followers.

Quiboloy's endorsement had been widely sought by all of the major presidential candidates. He made the announcement on the broadcast area of the sect in Davao City.

Speaking to Quiboloy's followers, Teodoro described the evangelist as "not just a great spiritual leader but also a man such an intense patriotism and love for the country."

Teodoro logs far behind the Liberal Party's Benigno Aquino III, Nacionalista Party's Manuel Villar and Promise ng Manila Joseph Estrada in opinion surveys.

Before announcing Teodoro's name, Quiboloy said he was "grateful and humbled by the deep trust you have bestowed upon me to be your guide in making a very crucial decision that will chart the course of our nation."

"Eight days from now, 50 million of us Filipinos will be casting our votes. And as it is in the heart of every Filipino, we all have been asking for guidance in choosing the right leader that will lead our nation," he said.

He added: "This night, I come before you to proclaim the country's next president." A little later, he announced Teodoro's name.

Lawyer Edwin Lacierda, spokesperson of Aquino, said Quiboloy's choice was a "disappointment" but he added there were other big groups set to endorse Aquino — the Iglesia ni Cristo, Philippine Tribune and PJ Kalookan.

Villar his own worst enemy

From page A1

se release for a public offering backed-up shares of stocks of Villar's real estate company.

The second item dominated front-page reports on April 8 of an alleged psychiatric report on the mental health of Liberal Party presidential candidate Jejomar Binay. The report "Aquino III that insisted not to be fake and engineered from a neurodiabetic 'real-address'" supporters of Villar.

This report was dumped into the media stream as Villar's poll surveys were going down. The publication of the falsified report in both broadsheets and print media marked the descent of the 2010 presidential election into its lowest level of dirty tricks and smear campaigns.

Three survey results have something to do with the decline of Villar's ratings and the widening of the lead of Aquino up to the most recent 20 percentage points over the second place Villar in just a week before the May 10 presidential elections.

These new developments drove vote-dump relief as the underdog key election votes, i.e., who of the presidential candidates can be convinced to run as Senator and ethical government to replace the corrupt and scandal-ridden administration of Arroyo.

The issue of integrity, honesty and conflict of interest has been highlighted by the media events of the past two weeks as the defining theme of the 2010 elections.

Eerie disclosure

On April 11, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile disclosed in a press conference reviewers of the P80 documents in 2007 on Villar's Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. showing that Villar approved in a regular secondary shares of the Phase Board and that had a senator worth documents June 2007.

As a result of Villar's interventions, the P82 board affirmed the release from escrow holdings Vista Land shares for the company's public offering.

Enrile revealed the issue of conflict of interests. He said that interventions of Villar showed that the Senator, who runs directly managing his company, violated the law. "He should have divested all his interests when he assumed his position as senator," Enrile said.

Lirio article

Also delving into Villar's interventions to the SEC and PSC, an article by business reporter Gerry Lirio came out on April 24 in the Philippine Star. Both the Senate president, made several phone calls to the SEC and PSE officials seeking to release from escrow about 1.2 billion of the 5.5 billion secondary shares of Vista Land so those could be offered to both as primary and secondary shares at the same time, or several days apart.

According to SEC and PSE lawyers interviewed by Lirio, Villar not only made the calls but also appeared at SEC and PSE boards meetings.

Villar and his wife Cynthia, the Las Piñas representative in Congress, are majority stockholders of Vista Land, the country's flagship company. Lirio's article said the couple became family-owned as the primary and secondary offering of P65.9 million shares that began on July 26, 2007, or within the escrow period of 180 days from the date of initial offering.

Acknowledging Lirio's story, this offering violated Article IE, Part D, Section 7 of the PSE's revised listing rules, which provides for a 180-day lockup on secondary shares. The article quoted this specific rule, Villar wanted the secondary offering held at once despite the 180-day lockup period. "He wanted to seize the day while the market was bullish," the article said. "And he got it."

Law on divestment

Villar said there was nothing inappropriate with his interventions in the PSE, pointing out that the PSE was not a government agency but a private company. He also said government earned more than P100 million in taxes from the public offering of Vista Land shares.

Villar is not entirely correct when he said his intervention did not violate any law. Section 14 of the overlooked Republic Act No. 6713, known as the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees.

Section 9 of RA 6713 states: "A public official or employee shall avoid conflict of interest at all times. He shall resign from his position in any private business enterprise within 30 days from his assumption of office and/or divest himself of his interest or shares of stocks within sixty days from such assumption. The same rule shall apply where the public official or employee is a partner in a partnership."

There is nothing on record that Villar has divested himself of his holdings in his company when he intervened in the PSE and SEC.

Not so long ago, Sen. Joker Arroyo called the attention of Villar that he cannot continue be a senator and a businessman at the same time.

Villar has to make up his mind whether he is senator or a businessman. He is even aspiring to be the country's next president. He who has such a mega-power of intervention in official or private business matters than a senator.

Ethical issue

We have to issue from Villar whether he will divest himself of his business interests and put them in a blind trust if he were elected president. This is an ethical issue that puts him on the spot.

Ethical issues reveals not only the ethical values of Villar on the issue of public office as a public trust but more so throws light into his methods in accumulating vast wealth as a businessman closely with the powers and influence of being a member of Congress for 14 years.

The newspaper disclosures of Villar's interventions have ethical issues that not only badly damaged his campaign. It has allowed Aquino to pull away with a wide margin.

Villar laments he is running in "a sea of black propaganda." But the case of his interventions are backed by documentary evidence.

Self-destruction

They are not faked documents unlike the fabricated psychiatric reports on Aquino.

Villar's interventions were crumbling ratings but only sank him deeper. Sinking from the blows delivered by the surveys, Villar is his worst enemy.

His reckless and desperate responses have revealed that he has an enormous talent for self-destruction.

Jamby Madrigal: In serving people, work becomes joy

From page A1

re, and I could tell if a dog was a tanker or container. I grew up with that," she says.

Weary of the capsize and 12Cs of today's shipping company, she was elected by Madrigal Shipping. "He can be proud to say we trained very good people."

Three captains also followed the whole of the family—most reputable, hard working.

Old rich family

Madrigal was born on April 26, 1958, to one of Manila's old rich families.

Her father was a son of the late Sen. Vicente Madrigal. Her mother, Antonia Abad Santos, was a granddaughter of Jose Abad Santos, appointed by President Manuel L. Quezon as president during the war against the Japanese forces and former Chief Justice.

Her aunt, Pastor Madrigal Gonzalez, a senator during the Quezon and Magsaysay administrations, was also the first head of the Social Welfare Administration, now the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Horacio and Antonia Madrigal were relatives of Lopez, Albay, and San Fernando, Pampanga, respectively.

Aside from Filipino and English, Madrigal has a working understanding of Kapampangan and Bicolano.

Best moments

She also speaks fluent French and Spanish, some Portuguese and German.

Madrigal started learning to operate languages during her late-30s' religious pilgrimages to Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal, among other places.

She later took up French and Economics at Santa Clara University in California, as well as Ateneo French language courses at the University of Paris, more popularly known as Sorbonne, Toulouse, and shopping at Cambridge University in England.

But Madrigal considers her elementary and early high school years at Assumption Convent in Makati City "one of the best moments" of her life.

"My father didn't want us to grow up in an atmosphere of material lust as he went on in America," she says. She finished her secondary course at Sacred Heart School in Menlo Park, California.

Her primary school was one of those schools was listed under the "educational background" heading on Madrigal's official website.

Not boastful

"I didn't want to show to the people that just because you have privilege you can rise," Madrigal explains.

"I was enhanced well because we had the money and the privilege to live and study abroad

Late SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Molmisa
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Dehesa

SAMMY Monroe of Barako Coffee battles to control the rebound against Alaska's Tony dela Cruz and Shanson Simpson. EDDLE ESTRA

Coffee Masters upset Aces; Beermen score

By Marang R. Castillo

JUNEL BACULI HAS DESIRED EVER SINCE that Sammy Monroe was on the way out. Looks like he's stuck with him with the way his import played last night.

Monroe keyed a strong Barako Coffee start and fueled a swashbuckling finish as the Coffee Masters stripped Alaska, 106-99, and snapped a six-game losing streak in the PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

The choppy-eyed import scored 11 points in the first period and had nine in the final frame as the Coffee Masters, sharp and focused all night, brought down the heavyweight Aces and climbed out of the cellar after improving to 2-6.

Alaska's first loss in four games dropped the Aces to a level 3-3 mark after failing to follow-up on an impressive conquest of Barangay Ginebra three nights ago.

"There were rumors, and I told him they weren't true," Baculi, who was named Barako Monroe in the pregame interview, said. "His girlfriend was supposed to come to the Philippines, but after he board (on, he stated) her to stay (in the United States)."

The coaching staff and management had a meeting before and during the All-Star break in Puerto Princesa precisely to evaluate the performance of Monroe, who has more than held his own in the squad's first seven games but has had very little local support.

Monroe, who had a lot of help last night, finished with 30 points with his keyshot prospect with 58.4 seconds remaining snagging a long Barako Coffee spell that ultimately put the Aces away, 102-98.

"I felt like the whole team was confident, like we had the winning attitude," Monroe said. "I see progress, I feel the team can keep winning with a lot of work."

In the second game, San Miguel Beer turned to touch in the third quarter, running to its bench players to chase its way out of its 19-point hole and repulse 8-Mig Derby Ace, 80-72.

Joy Belangel registered for San Miguel with 23 points, but it was the bench players—led by Glenn Rocela and Joseph Yeo—who keyed the Beermen's sixth straight win for a 7-1 card.

The Diamonds, who were led by James Yap's 20 points, fell to 2-3.

Three locals finished in twin digits with Yousif Aljamal hitting 12 of his 15 points in the final period, including a triple with 26.4 seconds remaining for a 105-98 lead.

Leo Najorda scored 14 of his 18 in the middle two quarters and Reed Juridlo roared to a career-high 16 as the Coffee Masters led by as many as 11 points twice in the first half.

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Smart Gilas may tap Kelly, but...

By Marang R. Castillo

STA. LUCIA IS WILLING TO LET KELLY Williams play for Rey and country, but the Realtors want something in return to boost their campaign in the pro league.

"Yes, we're willing to let him play for Smart Gilas," Sta. Lucia team manager Buddy Encarnado told reporters last night. "But what about us? Our team (in the PBA) will be jeopardized."

"Kelly's our main man," Encarnado continued. "We would surely (miss) him (a lot), but they would have to satisfy our need. (And) unless (needing) pays (big) and reserves (us)."

Smart Gilas had openly voiced its interest to sign the 6-foot-7 Williams for a number of major international tournaments this year, including the Asian Games in China and the London Olympic Games qualifier next year.

"It won't be that easy, because Smart Gilas is not a PBA team," Encarnado said. "If ever, it (Smart) should go through Talk N Text."

Talk N Text acted as co-trader when Gilas signed up Japeth Aguilar from Barako Bing at the start of the PBA season after the Tropang Texters traded for a 6-foot-9 former Western Kentucky University reserve but never put him in the TNT lineup.

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Editor Alexander S. Ulanday

DID YOU KNOW

MORE out of 1.3 liters Manila families had access to safe drinking water in 2008, according to the National Statistics Office.
Cyril C. Bonalanza Inquirer Research

Man beaten up, killed in front of 7-year-old son

By Nancy C. Carvajal

STARING AT OTHER PEOPLE CAN EARN ONE A plane in return but in a 38-year-old man's case, it led to his death.

Ronel Michael Arriez, a resident of Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City, was beaten up and stabbed by at least four men in his 7-year-old son could only watch, unable to help his father.

SPO3 Leonardo Pasco, chief investigator of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD-CIDU), said the morning acid stabbing took place on Saturday night.

Three of Arriez's attackers were arrested afternoon as through the man who stabbed him died managed to escape.

Those who were arrested were Allan Bell Calimoso, 21, his brother Jake, 20 and Roland Gamogan, all residents of MRB Compound in Pilot Drive, Barangay Commonwealth.

Still at large

Calimoso's brother, Noel, 32, the one who stabbed the victim, is still being sought by the police.

The victim's son told the police that before his father was attacked, they were coming to an eatery on Pilot Drive near the MRB Compound at around 9:30 p.m.

He said that at one point, his father told him to hurry up because the people at the other table seemed to mind the way he was looking at them.

The boy added that when his father broke the ice, the group, the people at the other table followed them, took his father aside and started mauling him. Next they took out a knife and stabbed his father.

Bystanders who chanced upon the victim took him to East Avenue Medical Center where he died three hours later due to multiple stab wounds.

Based on the boy's description, the police have arrested the three men who allegedly killed their kin-in-law.

Positively identified

According to the suspects, duty-free to their homes when the supposed attack on the victim took place.

The boy, however, positively identified the three men as the men who beat up his father. He also added that after the attack, the four men fled on a tricycle with Noel at the driver.

NCRPO: Low turnout for absentee voting

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Paolo Conrado, trainee

ONLY 10 OUT OF THE 15,000 members of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO) have participated in the absentee voting held from April 28 to 30 at Camp Bagong Diwa, Taguig City.

At yesterday's Balitaan sa Thanksgiving Room, NCRPO spokesperson Supt. Reynaldo Mirandilla said only a handful of policemen took part in the exercise as the majority were busy on storing their votes during the nationwide automated election on May 10.

In absentee voting, the manual system of casting votes was used. The position were allowed to vote only for president, vice president, 12 senators and a party-list group.

"They want to vote for local candidates, too, not just for national candidates. They also had their absentee voting limits down to three choices of candidates," Mirandilla said.

He added that another reason for the low turnout was the fact that many Metro Manila policemen also wanted to experience casting their votes using the automated system.

On the other hand, some policemen had been removed from the Commission on Elections' list of voters for failing to vote in previous elections, Mirandilla said although he did not give figures.

Meanwhile, the police spokesperson assured the public that the 15,000-strong NCRPO force was prepared to ensure that the May 10 elections would be conducted in a peaceful, orderly and credible manner.

Full alert

The NCRPO has been placed on full alert for the conduct of the polls. The troops that all police personnel will be on duty with all vacation leaves cancelled.

"We are very positive [about] the elections but we are also preparing for the worst ... We will act according to the situation," Mirandilla said, adding that no city or municipality in Metro Manila has been declared an election hot spot.

He added that the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Regional Capital Region Command would be on standby to provide manpower support to the police should there be any unforeseen incidents on election day.

FUN UNDER THE SUN
The sun's rays entice bare-midriff sa children playing games in an inflatable pool parked on a street corner in Singalong, Manila. ARMANDO TRINIDAD

METRO Citizen's call

0918-8985566

Traders blamed for pollution

LOAD TRUCTION and government suppliers on Felix Avenue, Cainta, Rizal should be required to hose it up promptly. They cause heavy contributions in the area.

Lolo, 28, Rizal

Quick action required

ATTENTION: DOJ (Department of Justice). Please check the system of Register of Deeds especially in Manila. When they went still using the manual (macro) memo system, requests for certified copies of titles were processed and released on the same day. Now that it's computerized, you have to come back the next day for the order of payment and wait a month or so for the release of the document.

And this is only for a certified copy. Please do something, as clients are helpless.

Lalo, 42, Pasig City

Sleepless in Pasig City

PLEASE implement a curfew on M. H. Del Pilar Street here to Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. The sound is so loud every time they drink and their arinola in front of our gate up until 2 a.m.

Pael, 42, Pasig City

Scared of history repeating itself

PLEASE look into the weakening dams near the Mangpahan floodgate. It seems the developer is encroaching the area. We're scared of being inundated by floodwaters again.

E. Filipon, 40, Pasig City

Cabbie needs to be taught a lesson

THE DRIVER of the taxicab with plate number TXD 661 refused to give me a bill because I wouldn't agree to give him a P20 tip. It'd be great if the spokesperson goes to insert office would teach him a lesson.

Mary, 27, Manila

Speeding jeepneys on narrow street

WE LIVE on Rosal Street in Juan Subdivision, Pasong, Manikina. Our street has been opened to passenger jeepneys from Tumana, Fortuna to Sta. Lucia and Cubao. Can you help me convince the city engineer to put humps on the street to prevent the jeepney drivers from driving as fast? Besides, our street is full of parked vehicles, making our already narrow street even narrower.

Vice Anne Cortez, 45, Manikina City

Kuligligin Quiapo

PLEASE, do something about the "kuligligs" here in Quiapo. They wait for passengers and park in the middle of the street, causing traffic.

Flor Estrivera, 39, Quiapo

Illegal jeepney terminal on Mapan Street

PLEASE do something about the jeepneys parked day and night from Dapitan Street to Mapan. They have turned the area into a terminal, aggravating the traffic in the area.

Anna Lee, 47, Quezon City

Wanted: Service road for Muñoz vendors

IT TAKES two hours to get to Cubao from Quezon City. Any fast-car route to pass through Mu.Ex (North Luzon Expressway) but you end up stuck in traffic for hours in the city. The usual manners the Muñoz market in Balintawak. Why don't they just provide a service road where vendors can unload their wares without affecting traffic on EDSA?

Frankie, 38, Quezon City

FROM PINK TO GREEN

Tess Dan Ia, 31, of Quezon City writes: "The footbridges on Commonwealth Avenue were built by MMDA (Metro Manila Development Authority) through our taxes. After painting it green, they now thank GMA for it. Dense really need to thank her for the change of paint when it was our taxes that paid for the structure?"

No way out (of Edsa traffic)

FOR THE second time on Friday night, I encountered heavy traffic on DO overpass and lane near Lanewood due to a Comelec (Commission on Elections) check point. Most they do this on a Friday night when everyone is avoiding Edsa due to the weekend concrete or checking repairs? The police/Comelec should be reasonable and not cause unnecessary inconvenience.

Rajmund, 29, Quezon City

Mandaluyong bet blames drug rap on politics

By DJ Yap

IN HIS FIRST MEDIA APPEARance since passing bail, Mandaluyong mayoral candidate Ernesto Abalos Jr. has told a press conference yesterday that he was just the victim of a hatchet job.

"This is just a fabricated charge with the intention of besmirching my name and character because of politics. I am the victim of a frame-up," he said in Filipino at the briefing he did not elaborate on the drug case and how the supposed frame-up could have occurred.

Boats, who is the official candidate of the Aksyon Demokratiko party, is running against the incumbent Mayor Benhur Abalos of Lakas-Kampi and two others.

In a press conference at Club Filipino in San Juan City, the 28-year-old Boats said the court decision granting him bail "vindicated me from the accusation of evil," and that he could not believe how some people would go to such lengths to try to destroy his reputation.

His lawyer, Madelo Ubana, said they had opted to stay silent since his arrest because they did not want to make matters "more public, or worse, while the case was still pending judgment.

Boats admitted that he had a lot of catching up to do, considering that only a few days were left in the campaign. He said he had started a house-to-house campaign, as well as motorcade and caravans with Mandaluyong voters.

"I would not only go double- but triple-time," he said, adding that he believed he stood a good chance of defeating Abalos.

The camp of Abalos has previously denied any hand in the arrest of Boats, saying the mayor had never resorted to such dirty tactics throughout his political life.

Jimmy Isidro, the city's public information chief, said in an earlier interview that Abalos was still campaigning actively around the city even though they did not consider any of his opponents to pose a serious challenge.

Boats was arrested in late January for allegedly trying to sell cocaine to undercover agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

On Friday, Pasig Regional Trial Court Branch 163 Judge Abraham Borreo allowed him to post bail after finding the prosecution evidence to be full of loopholes.

But the court said in its decision was only with respect to Boats's petition for bail and the prosecution still had a chance to present its evidence during the main trial to prove his guilt.

In a phone interview yesterday, Jimmy Isidro, Mandaluyong's public information chief, said there was no way politics could have been involved in the Boats case. He said it was an operation of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Abalos could not possibly have had a hand in it.

Las Piñas mayor: People know what I can still do

By Mike Navales

CORAZON PASADENAS, 71, Erwin Ojena, 47, and Sam Reyes, 37, barely know each other although they have one thing in common: Having lived in Las Piñas for decades, they have known only one family to be at the helm of the city for decades.

But despite the agsilan' seeming- ly unbreakable grip on local politics, the three aren't complaining.

"We are being taken care of," Ojena, a newsboy, told the Inquirer in Filipino.

"I have been living here for 35 years and I must admit, the city is being run very well," the balikbayan pedaled out, citing the transformation the city has received in the past years, naming Cheta the Ligtig Bridge among them.

"[She] can see the transformation of Las Piñas, even our roads. They have been doing great things to why not keep them in office?" said Reyes, referring to the Aguilars.

Second-generation politician

The city's incumbent mayor, Imelda Aguilar, is eyeing a second term. Reyes, as he prefers to be called, was first elected in 1995, serving for three terms before turning over the reins of power to his wife, Imelda, in 2004. In 2007, he ran for mayor again and won.

Aguilar is a second-generation politician whose late father, Ed- mundo, was the city's longest-serving mayor at 33 years.

After the 1986 Edsa revolution, Ojilmoza stepped down as mayor, turning over the position to Alfred Jon- tilla who became the town's officer in charge until 1988. Filmoza's half-brother, Bonifacio Figueroa, was elected that year only to lose in his reelection bid to Gabriel Casimiro in 1992.

Campaigning for another

When the hustings dropped by city hall one weekend to interview Aguilar, the mayor was talking with board officials about organizing an event for some other politician's benefit—the city's former representative and now Sen. Manuel Villar, who is running for the country's highest post.

"Let's help Manny, okay?" he was overheard telling the other people in the room.

"He's the best candidate we have," Aguilar later told the Inquirer when asked why was he busy with his brother-in-law's candidacy instead of his.

He added, "Our residents already know what services I did and what I can still do."

METROBRIEFS

Drunken argument leaves man dead

A DRUNKEN man stabbed his drinking buddy on Saturday night following an argument in Montalban City, investigator SPO1 Ronnie Tamondong of the Montalban City police identified the victim as Benito Dalo, 62, who died while undergoing treatment at Dapitan Montalban. Witnesses said Dalo was having drinks with his neighbor, Rolando Pabria, 50, at Sitio Mesaggao in Montalban, when they argued, leading to a fight. Pabria grabbed hold of a bolo (cane knife) while Palos took out another and stabbed him several times, the police said. The victim's neighbors took him to a hospital while his attacker escaped. The police said they have started a hunt for Pabria.

Mike Alexander

Driver disappears with P20,500 in cash

A MESSENGER-driver and P20,500 in an employer when he failed to return after he was sent on an errand, Subic Bay area, secretary of V.V. Allen Hardware and Construction Supply on Sandoval Avenue, Pasig City, told the police that she gave the money to the driver's driver, Marlon Balaan, and told him to buy several iron and other hardware shop. Dindo Ocampo SPO4 Pedro Ocampo said that after several hours, Jose got worried and sent somebody to Balaan's house to check on him after he failed to return to the store. Jose said they did not find Balaan who went to have disappeared along with the P20,000 in cash with which had been entrusted to him. Case investigator PO3 Rolando Lipata said they had referred the case of qualified theft being considered against Balaan to the Station Investigation and Detective Management unit.

Cynthia Balan-Espan, contributor

Arizona immigration law triggers US-wide protests

LOS ANGELES—TENS OF THOUSANDS of protesters marched through Los Angeles on Saturday in a peaceful May Day rally against a tough new immigration law in Arizona that has triggered a nationwide outcry.

An estimated 50,000 marchers turned downtown Los Angeles into a sea of red, white and blue, waving Stars and Stripes flags and demanding the repeal of the Arizona legislation and calling for federal immigration reform.

A Los Angeles Fire Department official put the crowd at 50,000 while police declined to give an official estimate.

A police spokesperson said the march had gone smoothly, with only one arrest for vandalism as the crowd-like rally wound up at around 2:30 p.m.

The protest was one of more than 70 held across the United States as Hispanic organizations mobilized against Arizona's law.

Participants in Los Angeles were encouraged to wear the American flag and Mexico unfurl their flags from their countries of origin, in an effort to emphasize their loyalty to the US.

"I've been here since I was three," said Jose Ilan, a Los Angeles teenager wearing an American flag across his shoulders.

Although he had brandished a Mexican flag in the past, he said he now wished "to show supporting this country." It much displayed a large sign appealing for support from President Barack Obama's administration. "Obama hear us," the sign read. "We will die in the struggle."

Rep. Gloria Molina and Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa were among the speakers who addressed attendees. "We need to write laws that appeal to our better angels," Villaraigosa told the crowd.

Other marchers waved banners with slogans such as "Mano De Aztlan," and "All Men Are Created Equal" Less than 1,000 demonstrators turned out in Phoenix, Arizona, to protest the new law, which permits police and local officials to question people they suspect are illegal immigrants and detain them if they cannot produce proper documentation.

The Arizona law makes it a state crime to hide people illegally, requires police to question people they suspect are illegal immigrants and allows citizens to sue police departments that they believe are not enforcing the law.

Civil rights activists say the move will lead to racial profiling but state officials said that it includes a provision that forbids the police from stopping someone on the basis of nationality. AFP

THOUSANDS of pro-immigrant protesters gather in downtown Dallas on May 1. AP

Seoul defense minister promises retaliation over warship sinking

SEOUL—SOUTH DEFENSE MINISTER on Sunday vowed retaliation over the sinking of a South Korean warship which killed 46 sailors, only the third such border with North Korea last month.

"Those responsible for killing our soldiers must pay the price," Defense Minister Kim Tae-Young told a CBS television program (and subsequently) on Sunday.

"Whatever it is—in whatever form it is—must be done." It echoed South Korean Navy Chief Admiral Kim Sung-Chan's special pledge during Thursday's state funeral for the sailors stranded by President Lee Myung-bak.

Lee will preside over a scheduled meeting of top military commanders on Tuesday to discuss the sinking of the Cheonan, becoming the first South Korean president to chair such a meeting, his office said on Sunday.

"President Lee will check what links the Cheonan incident had with our military and people, and state his position as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces," presidential spokesperson Park Sun-Kyu said.

South Korea has not openly blamed its communist neighbor for the blast which took place the 1,200 meter-long corvette Cheonan in the Yellow Sea on March 26.

But tensions between Pyongyang and Seoul have been simmering since the sinking, with conspiracies growing that the North might have been behind the incident.

The North denies involvement.

Defense Minister Kim told the KBS show on Sunday that any "drivers of abomination" involved from rebuilt the ship would return being rescued at sea, if they came from weapons used to sink the ship.

Kim has said a heavy torpedo was among the likeliest causes of the sinking. But he continued that the discussions pointed those millionaires in size, were not yet limited to "dozens" yet down, adding the probe should clarify if they belong to the navy or to something else. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

US oil rig spill swiftly balloons, could move east

VENICE, Louisiana—A series of storm setbacks on the American coast the from Louisiana to Florida on Saturday as a swelling oil slick spreading in explosive and fast-growing and experts warned that environmentally-fragile could make a nightmare scenario if the full threat carries it toward the Atlantic. President Barack Obama planned to visit the region on Sunday to assess the situation amid growing criticism that the government and oil company BP PLC should have done more to stave off the disaster. Meanwhile, efforts to plug the flow and contain the oil over the water has by skimming, burning or spilling it with chemicals to disperse it continued with little success. AP

Burma junta generals prepare for election

BANGKOK—It is an obvious move when generals in a military junta decide to discard the trappings of civilian rule. Most military rulers don uniforms and transform themselves into civilians. Last week, General Than Shwe—number one in the land—Myanmar to introduce a quasi-civilian, a khaki-suit over the former Burma, apparently in preparation for an historic elections expected later this year. Under a new constitution adopted in 2008, the military that have ruled Burma since 1962 is preparing to usher itself with a civilian government that includes a 440-member House of Representatives. The new legislature will set aside 25 percent of its seats for serving military officers, a number that could be augmented by former officers in civilian clothes. AFP

Thai PM talks tough, Red Shirts refuse to give in

BANGKOK—Thailand's prime minister warned antigovernment protesters on Sunday that there was a risk of "losses" if they did not get out of a Bangkok shopping district they have occupied for a month, but the protesters vowed to stay put. "From now on, what the government officials may take [further] actions to end the government known will be [...] they should not be done over [violence]," [illegible] Vejjajiva said he recently introduced ad-vises. It was not clear what he meant by "losses." Reuters

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The WORLD

Cirilo Lorenzo B. Gonzo

Car bomb defused on NY's Times Square

NEW YORK—POLICE TIPPED OFF BY AN ALERT STREET VENDOR found and defused a car bomb inside a sport utility vehicle in an incident that forced the evacuation of New York's Times Square on Saturday and could have turned into a "very deadly event," authorities said on Sunday.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg told a news conference that "we have no idea who did this and why." He said the bomb appeared to have been made in an unsophisticated manner.

Times Square is a popular tourist destination in Manhattan's Midtown.

"We are very lucky. Thanks to alert New Yorkers and professional police officers, we avoided what would have been a very deadly event," Bloomberg said.

He said an alert T-shirt vendor noticed "an unoccupied suspicious vehicle" and alerted a mounted New York police officer. All who observed that the SUV had smoke emerging from vents near the back seat and smelled of gas powder.

"The NYPD bomb squad has rendered safe an improvised car bomb," said New York Police Commissioner Ray Kelly.

The bomb was discovered in a dark green Nissan Pathfinder parked on 45th Street and Broadway with its engine running and hazard lights flashing, authorities said. It had Connecticut license plates that did not match the vehicle.

Kelly said police bomb technicians removed and dismantled three propane tanks, ammunition-grade fireworks, two gasoline containers and two clocks apparently used as timers, along with electrical wire and other components in the rear of the vehicle.

New York has remained on high alert for another attack since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in which hijacked airliners toppled the World Trade Center's twin towers.

Last year police said they thwarted a plot to bomb the New York subway system. Two men have pleaded guilty in the case.

US President Barack Obama commended the "quick action" by New York police in dealing with the incident and said the New York Police Department had done "excellent work" in responding.

A New York police officer, who did not give his name because he was not authorized to speak to the media, said a man was seen fleeing the car and then "three Secret Service-type cars" arrived at the scene

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Jungolf ace Mondilla new RP Am champion /A32

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa

No Mayweather-Pacquiao clash

Pacman firm: Blood test close to the fight is a disadvantage to me

By Francis T.J. Ochoa

THE MAN WHO FOUGHT TWO OF TODAY'S BEST FIGHTERS that world believers that Floyd Mayweather Jr., with his massive $8 million over Shane Mosley yesterday, earned at least the right to dictate the terms of the only megabout on the boxing horizon for the next few years.

"Mayweather is the one to dictate and he is the one who says when, where and, how," said Oscar De La Hoya of the eagerly awaited Mayweather-Pacquiao fight rumors would pound-for-pound king Manny Pacquiao.

"Mayweather is the king of the world now," added the former Golden Boy of hosting during the postfight press conference of the Mayweather-Mosley bout, transcripts of which were made available to several websites.

(De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions co-promotes Mayweather's fights.—RGS)

Mayweather stood steadfast on his conditions that strict drug testing protocols will have to be put in place before the last two owners of the mythical pound-for-pound throne fight each other.

PACQUIAO: Has within 24 days

That puts the superbout on hold because Pacquiao isn't fighting within

The hesitation could not wash the boxing superstar, who is on the campaign trail in his second crack at Congress, lost the Filipinos soon said in a radio interview that he still will not agree to any testing within 24 days of the fight.

Rallying Bayron second again in Pattaya

PATTAYA—FILIPINO JAY BAYRON shot a sizzling 9-under-par 64 Sunday but his final-day rally could only lift him to a tie for second behind Thailand's Udorn Duangdecha in the $50,000 Singha Benyan Open at Bangpra Golf Club.

The 24-year-old Bayron, who started the day five strokes behind Udorn, actually gained a piece of the lead at 21-under as he 10-with his fifth birdie on the back nine, where he scored a 31.

But Udorn birdied the easy 300-yard 6th hole with a 9W and made the second stop of the 2010 Mercedes-Benz Tour with a 15-under total of 273.

Bayron, who had earlier rounds of 70-68-70, was second in the second straight tournament at 273, his first to a tie with Korean Park Sang-hyun, who also shot a 31 coming home for a 66.

Antonio Lascuña, who earned the fight for the Filipinos in the first three rounds, closed out with a 67 and settled for a tie for fourth with Thailand's Chapchai Nirat (68) at 274.

Antonio Murdaca, winner of the kickoff leg at the Manila Southwoods over two weeks ago, tapered off with a 72 and tied for 15th place at 279.

Marvin Dumanchin (69) finished at 280, Jarin Phapunnon (70) ended up at 284 and Anthony Fernando (73) finished at 285.

Bayron led in the first three rounds at Southwoods before collapsing on the final day's 6-birdie one-three-off Murdaca.

Adamson, RTU nines sustain fine Open starts

NEAL THEBERGOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY AND Adamson University sustained their perfect starts in the 2010 Coleanne Distiller National Open Softball Championships in Baguio City yesterday.

The PEU Blue Thunder, champions in last year's Softball Pilipinas outdoor season, trounced Dimasalang of Cavite, 9-1, at the Baguio City Athletic Bowl for their third victory in the tournament's debut.

Adamson, the losing women's finalist last year, pulled off a three-inning 13-0 rout of Baguio at the nearby Melvin Jones Stadium in second straight win.

The RTU Lady Thunders tied the Lady Falcons' 2-0 count after scoring run the University of Santo Tomas Tigresses, 7-6, behind a homer by Mia Ramirez in the eighth inning.

But the Tigresses stayed on contention by sapping Centro, 5-2, in an afternoon game at the Governor's Garden by Shea Pulido, Tobias Francisco Solutions, Colegio Distiller Bank, Philtex, Ami Smith and La Salle-De Brazza.

In the other women's match, University of Casablanca of Baguio pulled off a 2-3 upset over Philtex-San Beda University of the Philippines.

Ate Evelyn Cortez and Ray Hernandez had go-ble clinic as Cavite doubled St. Louis U, 13-9.

MS of Bitukilinis dumped Intermediate, 10-1, in five innings, while Baguio routed UE and R of Benguet, 7-4. — Miss Anthony Reyes

Lyceum ends SSC's streak

UST overpowers St. Benilde

By Jeanne W. Pape

LYCEUM'S THAI REPORT PURSUIT Sandoval and Joy Lunet Ewood gaps in San Sebastian's defense in the deciding set and the Lady Pirates salvaged a thrilling 25-19, 19-25, 19-25, 26-24, 15-11 quarterfinal victory yesterday in the Shakey's Collegiate Invitational.

Sandoval tossed in a conference-high 30 points, and the Lady Pirates also boundaried a efficient defense for a season-high 17 blocks to move within a win of a semifinal stint at the FIBA Flying V women's tourney.

Sandoval, who had two consecutive kills to lift the Pirates to 24-23 advantage in the fifth set, while Gaves scored on match point to cap a 20-point performance that drank the heaviest 19-5 squad in first loss in five games.

"I reminded the runners may aggressive and be confident," said coach Emil Lontoc after his wards conquered the Lady Stags for the first time since the 2006 first conference.

"We conquered well for this match, especially our blocking. If you opened Thai Sabanpan's Thai import Jaroensri Budsri and their other spiker had a hard time scoring against us."

ZHAR Vitics (right) of St. Benilde smothers the spike of Santa Rosa's Maika Ortiz yesterday's quarterfinal encounter.

University of Santo Tomas had an easier time against College of St. Benilde, posting a 25-10, 25-20, 32-14 triumph in the other quarterfinal match.

Maika Ortiz had 13 points and Angeli Tabaquero and Alyssa Valdez added nine apiece in the defending champion Tigresses also turned in nice Final Four stint.

"We started out very well, we had a good first set," said UST coach Haneg delos Santos.

The 21-year-old Cuneo made up for her scarce showing in the second and third frames when the Lady Stags netted a total behind Budsri and Sabanpan floors.

"Coach told me to just stay confident even if I was outnumbering server," said Cuneo.

She finally got back her bearings in the fourth frame and teamed up with Mika Tolentino, who posted a game-high five aces.

Bubble Gum dropped in 11 numbers and Dhee Gedmintas had seven, four off blocks, for the La Salle Prince.

Benilde joined the Lady Stags with 26-point, while Bonin and Rivera combined for 36.

No Mayweather-Pacquiao clash

Pressmaga AGP

So long as the drug test is not done close to the match, Filipino," Pacquiao said.

Mayweather's condition and Pacquiao's reasons often caused the collapse of the fight that the whole world eagerly anticipated. But two had signed to be a March 13 pinkslast until disagreements over blood-testing protocols and three-to-a-different public.

Pacquiao dominated Joshua Clottey in Dallas on that date, and to the same way Mayweather crushed Mosley yesterday.

But the question as to who's the best lingers.

De La Hoya may have a clear preposition—having fought both fighters. In 2007, De La Hoya lost a decision to Mayweather but he was crushed in eight rounds by Pacquiao in 2008.

"I have to admit that Floyd Mayweather has overcome me in the best fighter in the world," De La Hoya said. "Pacquiao makes many mistakes. And that will be the key for whether he should [or should]."

"It will be an interesting fight because there is no stopping Pacquiao and there is no "quit" in Pacquiao. We had a fight with Pacquiao and Mayweather will be interesting but I have to tell you Mayweather is special."

The numbers may disagree, at least when it comes to punching rate. Mayweather and Mosley landed 300 punches—combined—in yesterday's bout. When Pacquiao made history by stalling his seventh division crown with a 12th-round knockout of Miguel Cotto, the Filipino landed 316 punches on his own.

So the debate rages on and will be settled once the "mysterious bout a middle ground.

"If Manny Pacquiao can take blood and urine test, then we have a fight," Mayweather said.

Pacquiao countered, "If they'll get blood from me down to the match, it will be a disadvantage for me because I'm smaller and he's big."

Chico biggest F. Hills winner

ANTIPOLO—BOBBY CHICO wound a hole-in-one at the course-record 13th green and wound up the biggest winner of the going home with a new Hyundai Tucson, a Yamaha golf cart and cash at the 5th leg.

Chico, 62, the club's former golf director, used the 160-yard 13th hole of the Hidden Valley Golf & Country Club.

Ace Jaime Bautista and Daddy Villa took the low gross with a total of 93 points while the Wilbert Tan-Marvin Cipriano tandem fired 129 for the overall championship.

Director Fort Gonzales, Deng de Tuplo, GM Benny Tanco and sports and games chair Dino Lim snatched the top Group 1 trophies in Tom-Tom Sandoval-Diego and Elmer Go Lowe (126).

Nilda Raquel-Hidden Valley's ace aided Group 2 entry LJS while Evelyn Alcantara-Ross' foursome topped Group 3 with 128.

Rafael Hernandez won the grand raffle prize, a Hyundai decent.

Payback time

THE PHILIPPINES HAS A LONG HISTORY OF public officials whose achievements endure to this day and will always inspire us until the present generation.

It's about time we pay them back long after they fought for flag and country," said Philippine Sports Commission chair Harry Angping after the induction of nine sports heroes who will be inducted during ceremonies at the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame on May 5 at the Manila Hotel.

Making up the first batch of Hall of Famers are boxing greats Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, Pancho Villa, middleweight Teofilo Stevenson, lightweight Rolando Navarrete and Miguel White, track and field and icon "Lolo" Villanueva and tennis legend Felicisimo Ampon.

Basketball great Carlos Loyzaga and the 1954 team that went to unbeaten in eight rounds at the 2nd World Basketball Championship in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

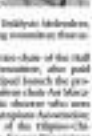
Supreme Court Chief Justice Reynato Puno's basketball career and leadership are the message during the simple but reportedly meaningful induction ceremonies.

Although the Hall of Fame is a PSC undertaking, Angping named veteran members of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, headed by its president Dalilyah Abdurahim, to announce the unwavering nominees for enshrinement in the museum.

Angping, who is the vice-chair of the Hall of Fame, expressing sentiments, also paid tribute to those who helped launch the project, amongst them committee chair Ka Marcelino Maganda, a former Olympic shooter who now heads the Philippine Olympians Association; Angel Sapico, president of the Filipino-Chinese Athletic Federation; former Pampanga Rep. Ronjie Dabaniel, one of the original authors of the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame law; and Supreme Court Senior Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura, the former PSC commissioner of the national cycling association.

Republic Act No. 9757 created the Philippine Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, but the project never took off until last year due to government bureaucracy.

Continued on A13



CLEAN LIVING

Hermilo B. Dilay

Headed by its president Dalilyah Abdurahim, to announce the unwavering nominees for enshrinement in the museum.

A happy couple and devout group of Filipinos awake Barcelona will compete in the World Master Cup-U European Invitational. It. Cmdr Darby of the Armed Odyssey on May 11, June 2 and 4. The twice-a-year, enthralling spectacle is hosted by the Fraternity of Olympian sailors sponsored by Thunderbird Boats.

Just last month, the Hibiscus State Congress, alongside aviation, cultural and international affairs committees, passed a resolution recognizing and highlighting's cultural value in the "Land of the Rising" (whose name old-time residents are of Filipino descent. Among those available a Filipino descent. Among those available a Filipino descent. Among those available a

Pacquiao, Mayweather have nowhere else to go

DEAR NOW THAT WE'RE DONE PICKing and betting that the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Manny Pacquiao fight didn't happen, can those who have the power to make this fight happen please get on their cell phones?

Mayweather is finished with the business of having to fight Sugar Shane Mosley to a low verdict, Pacquiao will be done with his mental attempt at getting a seat in Congress.

Best have retirement fright-on the line and their camps for not making the fight except last March but their patience can only last so long before they give up on this drama of seeing the most explosive battle boxing can offer today.

* * *

Do all the drug tests Agree on a venue. Settle the money issues. Determine the pay-per-view sharing. Map out the promotional tour.

Get ready for the press conference and weigh-in where Mayweather will taunt Pacquiao endlessly and will get nothing but an icy response. It's not a language thing because Pacquiao's English is so much better now than when he first landed in America. It's just that Pacquiao is no trash talker.

Get the HBO 24/7 production crew ready because aside from all the takeover issues about Pacquiao and Mayweather there will be more to tell. Like if Pacquiao wins his political race or if Mayweather has something new to say or how many cars have been placed before him and all of them left on the roadside.

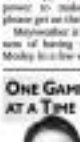
* * *

Pacquiao versus Mayweather is a fight those two great boxers owe the sport. They would go on their own college if they decide to do so and we wouldn't really mind. All we want is for the issue of who is the better fighter to be decided inside the ring and nowhere else.

Trying to speculate and analyze what would happen if that race in the ring is delightful sport talk but you really get old very quickly.

Mayweather may call himself as the best of his era but that claim will remain disputed until he fights Pacquiao. He knows it and everybody else does. Pacquiao has shown and that he will fight anyone his promoters put before of him. But he also knows that his legend will be more complete if he fights and beats Mayweather.

Let's not go into the future with the memories of this glorious era of boxing without this fight. I wouldn't want to be in some coffee shop reminiscing about this time and you having Pacquiao-Mayweather to talk about.



ONE GAME AT A TIME

Ian Sarmenta

ON THE end, Floyd Mayweather proves too crafty for Shane Mosley. "Money" Mayweather outpointed "Sugar" Shane in 12 rounds to keep his unbeaten record intact.

On the Money

Mayweather survives early trouble, dominates Mosley

LAS VEGAS—FLOYD MAYWEATHER RE-minted a furious early onslaught by fellow American Shane Mosley to preserve his **unbeaten professional record with an unanimous points victory in a welterweight bout on Saturday.**

Widely regarded as the best defensive fighter of his generation, Mayweather dominated 11 of the 12 rounds with his lightning hand speed and agile movements to improve his career record to 41-0 with 25 knockouts.

A 1-1 favorite going into the highly anticipated bout at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, Mayweather was wounded by a flurry of punches by Mosley in the second round.

However, the 33-year-old "Money" immediately regained control and he dictated the rest of the fight with his probing right hand, rock solid defense and a series of telling combinations.

"I did what the late great have to see," Mayweather, also known as "Pretty Boy," said in a ringside interview. "I went here to see. There's not my style but I wanted to give them that kind of fight and I knew I could do it."

Asked how he had recovered from Mosley's early onslaught, Mayweather replied: "It's a contact sport and you're going to get hit.

"But when you get hit, you've got to suck it up and keep on fighting. And that's what I did."

The flamboyant American gained unanimous verdicts from all three judges—118-109, 119-109 and 118-110.

With welterweight champion Miguel Cotto had not fought since a ninth-round TKO upset of feared Mexican slugger Antonio Margarito in January 2009, slipped to 46-6 with 35 knockouts.

Watched by a record of around 16,000 (but included A-List celebrities and sporting legends, Mayweather made a confident start.

Mosley then responded in round two, landing several punishing blows with his right hand on Mayweather's head.

Mayweather briefly buckled and was pinned against the ropes after Mosley switched his attack to a series of body jabs.

"I caught them with my right hand and I tried to move around but he was too quick and I was too right," Mosley, 38, said of his dominance in the second round. Reuters

James, Williams rally Cavaliers past Celtics

CLEVELAND—LEBRON JAMES SCORED 33 points and Mo Williams added 30 as the Cleveland Cavaliers stormed back in the second half to beat the Boston Celtics 105-93 on Saturday night in Game 3 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

James, playing with a sprained and bruised right elbow, delivered yet another memorable performance as the Cavs withstood the Celtics, who led by 11 in the third.

James, who also had seven rebounds and seven assists, drained a three-pointer with 22 seconds left to put Boston away. Jason Terry—whom he won as the NBA's Most Valuable Player award for the second straight season.

Rajon Rondo had 27 points and 12 assists and Kevin Garnett finished with 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics. Game 2 is Monday night.

Dismissed as being washed up, the 37-time NBA champion Celtics controlled the tempo from the start and were on the verge of judging home-court advantage away from Cleveland.

But James, who seemed to be bothered by the elbow early on, picked it up down the stretch.

After Rondo split a pair of free throws with 4:30 left, James drove the lane and scored a short shot but grabbed his sore elbow and fumbled it to a pass the Cavs ahead 94-91.

Garnett's basket got the Celtics within one, but James countered with a floater in the lane. After Ned Pierce missed a wide-open 3-pointer, Marquis O'Neal, who looked slow and every one of his 30 years during overtime, scored on a tip to make it 98-93 with 1:02 remaining.

Following a Boston turnover, James came up with the decisive blow. Pulling up on the left side, he hacked a 3-pointer that finally allowed 20,000 Cleveland fans to celebrate. James, called "the closer" by his teammates, scored 12 points in the fourth.

"He's a guy that is going to deliver," Cavs coach Mike Brown said. "So the game went along, he got more aggressive and he then started to fall."

James cited just two outside shots in the first half, and came out of the locker room at halftime shaking his right arm, which he said has been bothering him periodically for a month. But the elbow appeared as healthy as ever when James needed it to respond.

"Throughout the game it loosened up," said James, who will receive his second Most Valuable Player award on Sunday in his hometown of Akron. He won the NBA MVP in a lopsided result last season. "I have a no-excuse policy. The team has a no-excuse policy. We're about coming out and competing against the Celtics."

Cleveland trailed 69-58 when Williams grabbed a loose ball and raced down the floor before slamming it over Rondo, who was probably expecting the guard to try a layup.

"That surprised me," said Brown, who struggled to keep a straight face regarding Williams' dunk. "I didn't know what happened. That was a heck of a play."

"This is not going to be easy for either team, you can see that," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "It's going to be a tough series." AP

MO WILLIAMS' first dunk as a Cavalier—more say in his career—doesn't part "production" Boston skipper Paul Pierce. It also highlights the Cavaliers' big third-quarter rally.

HOMETOWN HERO

'Bo-rail' nails third Kentucky Derby victory

LOUISVILLE—HOMETOWN HERO CALVIN Borel became the first jockey to win the Kentucky Derby three times in four years spur by guiding Super Saver to an easy victory over a dreary track at Churchill Downs on Saturday.

Borel steered the Kentucky-bred bay along the rail in a ground-saving ride that gave trainer's leading trainer, Todd Pletcher, his first Derby after his 24 previous changes failed to deliver.

"Obviously Calvin was in a beautiful spot the whole way," said Pletcher. "He didn't want to handcuff him with too many instructions. We know he would like the rails ground and the only thing I told him was, 'ride him like you own him.'

"He's an instinctive rider and he knows this track so well. He knows the horse well, he's ridden him well-back time he's been on him. It was as simple as that."

A fast kick by the filly enabled the Florida Derby winner to finish second, 2 and 1/2 lengths behind Super Saver, while Musket Man's late push the show spot in the capacity field of 20.

Churchill Downs-based Borel, nicknamed "Bo-Rail" for his penchant for hugging the inside, employed the tactic to perfection in winning the $1.5-million race for three-year-olds.

The 43-year-old seized the lead in the stretch using a right-handed whip and crossed the finish line without a serious challenge from his foe, ridden by Jose Lezcano.

The soft-spoken Borel flashed a relieved smile as his colt jogged in a halt and held up three fingers, one for each of his Derby triumphs. The crowd roared its approval.

"This is what I wanted to do all my life," said Borel, who now rests with 156 career victories. That illed last year in the stop and was in the saddle for Street Sense's victory in 2007.

"It's every jockey's dream to win the Derby and I never dreamed I would win three Derbies," said Borel. "Bro I've worked hard and I've dedicated to this job and I love the game. It's just what I have to do, and I'm very successful with it. I'm very blessed."

Super Saver covered the 1 1/4 miles over the dirt in 2:04.41 as the second favorite behind Bob Baffert's Lookin At Lucky, who got bumped at the start and finished ninth.

Baffert, seeking his fourth victory in the "Run for the Roses," said his Kentucky-bred bay lost the race well before running the starting gate.

"I bet all chances at the post positions draw when I drew the one [post]," said the trail of Sunset. "I had a bad feeling about it. But that's horse racing. You have good luck and bad luck."

A day-long deluge turned the track into a soupy mess just minutes before the race the rain poked through the clouds, delighting the fashion-minded but rain-weary crowd.

For the first time since he began saddling horses in the Derby in 2000, Pletcher will have Louisville with a stake on his line.

"I'm no farmer a trainer today than I was yesterday," said Pletcher, who has won four Eclipse Awards as the top US trainer. "We broke than when I woke up this morning. Here's to any better tomorrow. We'll try to keep doing everything the way we have always done it and hopefully we can keep doing well." Reuters

CALVIN Borel raises three fingers after steering Super Saver to the finish line ahead of everybody else at Churchill Downs.

World Sports

Mayfair nears 'Quail' win

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—Will-ly Mayfair is one round away from his first victory on the PGA Tour in 12 years.

Mayfair survived a rocky stretch to extend Hen Saturday at the Quail Hollow Championship, shooting a 1-under 71 to build a two-shot lead over Masters champions Phil Mickelson and Zach Love III.

Defending champ Mickelson gave Mayfair a magical week. He narrowly made his tee time on Monday to qualify for the Quail Hollow Championship. He shot 65 to get in, and has kept it going.

Love without Tiger Woods, who missed the cut, there's plenty of star power around.

Four major champions are in contention as is Mickelson's favorite Masters rival Love, who has Carolina roots. AP

Nadal holds off Gulbis

PARIS—RAFAEL NADAL HAS STRUGGLED to defend his French Open before finally wearing down his 40th-ranked opponent to pull out a 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 win in the semifinals of the Rome Masters on Saturday.

It was the first time in seven matches on clay this year that Nadal dropped a set.

"It was a really hard match and I didn't play well," Nadal said. "It's really difficult to play against Gulbis. His serve was really unbelievable."

Upon seeking the 1-hour, 46-minute marathon, Nadal let out a big scream and jump with a series of fist pumps.

"I was really happy that I won such a difficult match," Nadal said. "The weekend was very good for me."

In the title match, Nadal will meet fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, who beat a struggling Fernando Verdasco, 7-6, 6-3. AP

SPORTS

Jungolf ace Mondilla new RP Am champion

Bests Tabuena in finals; Gabasa, Dulfo shine

By Cudell P. Tupas

MAWOLO PORTICH, BATANGAS—IT WAS a breakthrough victory and he made it look so easy.

Local boy Clyde Mondilla put an emphatic end to his unexpected surge to stardom by stopping fellow junior Miguel Tabuena, 5-and-4, yesterday to win the men's title of the 2010 Philippine Amateur Golf Championship presented by Samsung at the Del Monte layout.

The 15-year-old Mondilla turned the highly anticipated shootout with Tabuena into a rout by pulling away early in the 36-hole duel to become only the second player from Del Monte after the revered Frankie Miñoza to capture the RP Amateur title.

"I didn't expect this," said Mondilla, who is a year older than his rival. "All I wanted was to play well because this is my home course."

Cebu's Rhia Gabasa completed a rare double victory for jungolfers by riding the women's division with a 2-up decision over Thailand's ace Pagaporn Kaewpaiboon.

A Junior Stroke in 2008 at Manpaco, the 15-year-old Gabasa of Alta Vista made sure there was no heartbreak this time, sinking a 4-foot putt for birdie on the 36th and last hole.

Jorral bet Simon Dolfo toppled Iggy Darwell, 4-and-3, to bag the senior crown of the event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Samsung, Titleist, Misuno, Lexalline, A Brand of Dole, Mizuhiro Sing, Inquirer Golf Monthly and BOA.

"I think this is the first time in the RP-Amateurs that we have two champions from the junggolf ranks," said NGAP's Tommy Manotoc. "This should be a preview of what we should expect from the national team in the future."

Attacking the short layout where he once shot a 31-under-par 62 in a practice round, Mondilla birdied four of the first eight holes with pure inside six feet before going 6-up with an eagle on the ninth set up by a nine-iron second shot to within eight feet of the cup.

Mondilla, who conquered 2009 champion Mhark Bermudez, 2-and-1, in the quarterfinals, ditched the 18-hole morning session with birdies on 15, 17 and 18 for a tournament-best eight-under round to build what turned out to be an insurmountable eight-hole lead.

Tabuena was never in the fight after his great game, which had keyed his victories over Gio Gonzalvo in the quarterfinals and Peter Villaluz, 6-and-5, in the last four, deserted him.

Tabuena's woes began with not bogeys on the fourth and fifth.

CLYDE Mondilla grimaces as he misses a birdie putt on the 17th hole in the morning half of the grueling 36-hole finals with fellow junior ace Miguel Tabuena.

"I think it affected everything," Tabuena said, referring to his two-hole misfortune. "I felt I have the game to win. But he was really good. He really hurt me on the front nine."

The sharp form of Mondilla, son of the Del Monte caddy master, recalled the dazzling 8-under 64 he shot in the Junior Hybrid qualifier at the Manila Southwoods recently where he finished second behind Jobim Carlos.

"I think it helped me a lot," he said. "I'll just have to work on my putting."

Gabasa, who is also a member of the Cebu Golf Club, was also in control from the start of her duel with Dolfo, who is a member of the Alabang Country Club.

Gabasa, who is also a member of the Cebu Golf Club, was also in control from the start of her duel with Dolfo, who is a member of the Alabang Country Club.

Japanese tops Subic triathlon; Filipinos falter

JAPAN'S Hiroto emerges from the water just ahead of Ravi McMeca.

EXTREME HEAT SLOWED DOWN Hidenobu Hiroto in the run segment but it hardly mattered as the veteran Japanese captured the men's Elite crown of the 2010 ITU-Subic Bay International Triathlon yesterday at the Subic Bay Freeport in Zambales.

Hiroto, who finished seventh in the 2004 edition, negotiated the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run race in one hour, 56 minutes and 51 seconds to ride the punishing event in which no one among the Filipinos made it to the top 15.

"I was very confident really in the race[,]" said the 37-year-old Hiroto. "But the weather here was so hot. I had to slow down a bit in the final run leg."

New Zealand's Dylan McNeice came in 32 seconds later to 1:57:24 to settle for runner-up honors. Singapore's Cedric Bowden clocked 1:58:00 to finish third.

"We were together in the swim and bike legs, but in the run leg, Dylanead started to the first loop and I could see easily up anymore," said the 24-year-old McNeice.

A day earlier, China swept the women's elite competition with the top-seeded Wang Yi dominating in 2:13:44.

Hong Kong's Ivan Lo Ching-hin established his under-23 men's elite title by clocking 2:00.33, almost a minute slow of Japan's Takayuki Ito (2:01.32), who picked up the sport only two months ago.

Veteran George Wing, the host Filipino bet in the men's Elite, fell almost 39 minutes behind Hiroto and was a distant 53rd place with a time of 2:34.11.

Brian Borling, a national running team recruit, registered 2:13.26 to wind up 34th in the 17-man under-23 field.

Ayuga Ishimaka, a Kanagawa University law student, placed third in 2:02.04.

Singapore's Billie Lee emerged as the fastest age groupers, while Japan ruled the International team event, followed by Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei.

Jazmine M. Ployo

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IN THIS ISSUE

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- PSE tightening listing rules /B4

Editor: Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor: Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Gov't reports higher net borrowing at P54B

RP took out new loans worth P284.86B in 1st quarter

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT REINforced its financing position in the first quarter as it reported a net borrowing of P54.42 billion—about 85 percent higher than the P29.49 billion recorded in the same period last year, according to the Bureau of the Treasury (BTr).

Global bonds worth P68.5 billion issued in January and samurai bonds worth P50.74 billion in March, accounted for bulk of the debt the government incurred during the period.

In the first quarter, new government borrowings reached P284.86 billion, including P137.08 billion from foreign sources and P146.88 billion from domestic investors.

The period's total was about a third more than the inflow of P224.72 billion for the previous year.

At the same time, the government paid out a total of P230.44 billion, including P93.06 billion in foreign loans and P147.38 billion in domestic debt.

This was about a quarter more than the P185.23 billion paid out in the same quarter last year.

In March alone, the government's financial position settled at a net borrowing of P222.78 billion, almost 23 times the net borrowing of P9.69 billion posted the year before.

Last week, Finance officials reported that the budget deficit for the first quarter reached P134.2 billion—higher than the previous year's figure by 52 percent.

In March, the government availed of a total of P64.64 billion in new foreign loans—close to 10 times last year's P6.23 billion.

Inflow for the month was driven by the issuance of samurai bonds—the first

GOVT | B2

Banks register hefty rise in '09 income, assets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S BANKING SYSTEM posted a hefty increase in overall net income in 2009, recovering from the profit decline reported the previous year due to the global downturn.

According to a Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas report, the banking sector registered a net income of P69.3 billion last year—up nearly 78 percent from the P41.6 billion recorded the previous year.

The profit rise last year was a reversal of the 14 percent decline in 2008. It was also higher than the P62.9 billion registered in 2007.

"The Philippine banking system stayed in growth horizon in 2009 as expected," the BSP said in its latest report on the country's financial sector.

Total assets of the banking sector likewise grew by 9 percent to P6.19 trillion from P5.68 trillion in 2008.

Assets included deposits, which further rose last year as the economy's global environment continued prompting more people and businesses to save.

Even as the height of the global crisis in early 2009, regulators had expressed confidence that the country's banking sector would remain profitable. They said key reforms adopted following the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s have made the country less vulnerable to the ill-effects of a downturn.

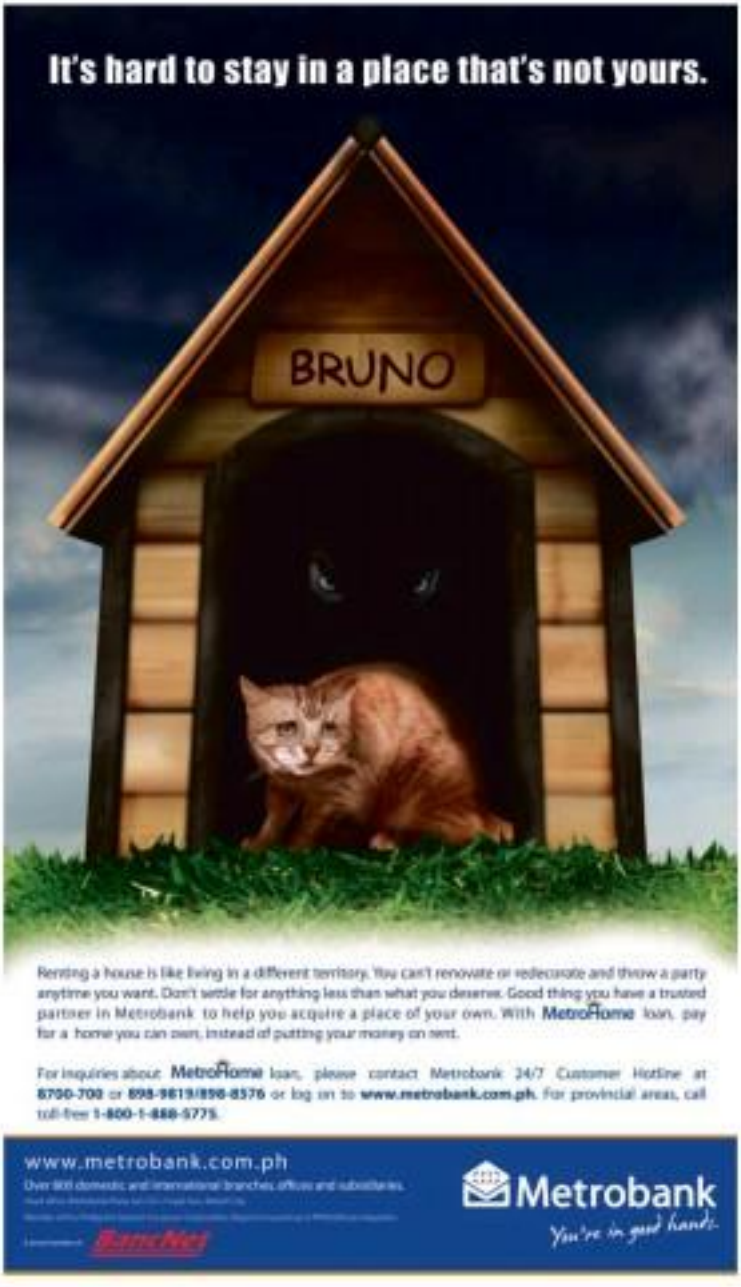
The BSP said higher bank profits in 2009 were partly due to trading gains. Industry players, on the other hand, said earnings were broad-based, as the banks also continued to post gains from lending although growth in demand for loans had slowed down due to the crisis.

Regulators and banks in the country continued to have appetite for lending, although credit growth was not as strong as in the pre-crisis years.

Outstanding loans, excluding interbank loans and deposits to the central bank, amounted to P2.44 trillion as of end-2009, up nearly 5 percent from the previous year's P2.33 trillion.

Last year's credit growth, which regis-

BANKS | B2



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The return of the stockbrokers

THE CORPORATE RIVALRY BETWEEN SAN MIGUEL CORP. and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. spilled over to the Philippine Stock Exchange Board elections last Saturday, resulting in PLDT's loss of representation for the first time since the demutualized exchange allowed institutional investors to be represented on its board.

PLDT nominee Anabelle Chua, who had been on the PSE board for many years, lost the election of three stockbrokers to get the PLDT group a slot of its own nominee. The sources said that in last year's elections, the PLDT group backed a candidate who effectively conspired for the "upset" seats that would have otherwise been occupied by a broker. Hence, the surprise election of Raul Antonio Iskandar Bendeck. In this year, the sources said, several brokers decided to vote for Chua in retaliation for the losses last.

Another big theme is that Manny Villar has backed away from running for Senate but also by the fading rights of a big block that would normally go for him. The Jose Mojcol Investment Fund and privately-held local investment house Prycinct Capital Venture Corp., chaired by Jose Ma. Concepcion III, drop out, in his personal capacity, considers about 20 percent of the PSE voting rights.

In the meantime, Fund manager Bernard of Hagedorn Capital Partners—who claimed last year's PSE election was rigged by running the Club "upset" seat—had withdrawn from this year's polls. Thus, the broker (the year hopped seven out of the 15-member board seats, the government member that Jose also allows them to occupy. Jovis C. Bondoc

Paving gas

FOR SEVERAL days now, political circles have been buzzing with rumors about a supposed "earthshaking" announcement being prepared by Malacañang on Monday (or should being prepared by Palace "spinmeisters" themselves).

With everyone frightened about the nature of the announcement, rumors have begun to swirl that it could be related to the appointment of the country's next Supreme Court Chief Justice, or worse, the declaration of martial rule.

And that's not the end of it.

Others tender, one of the Comelec commissioners assured an MR client Ramon R. Del Rosario Jr. and told him that perhaps the only reason why he was pushing the postponed manual count of the May 10 elections was to ensure the victory of his candidate for vice-presidency.

To his credit, Del Rosario did not take the bait. He, instead, just said he was just exercising his rights as a Filipino. Jose Bryan Zhender

Biz Buzz
By the staff

Major Homes' major problem

AFFORDABLE housing firm Major Homes recently wrote the Senate to complain about the failure of the Cebu-based government to issue crucial permits that would have allowed it to proceed with its projects.

According to Major Homes' SVP Gilberto Garcia, the company filed for a development permit in April 2008 with the Cebuano LGU properly submitting all documents and complying with all requirements. To this day, however, the firm has not received its permit, with the processing at its point being "delayed with no foreseeable resolution."

More importantly, the office of Cebu-ano Mayor Jun Osmeña "has not given any justifiable reason" for the delay. Garcia said, adding that the red tape had dispirited potential homeowners of the opportunity to avail themselves of quality and affordable housing.

"[This] highlights the debilitating presence of inefficient and result-minded municipal government officials who are at the root of so many problems of our society," he complained. For the real estate, behind Major Homes' woes, said homeowners have... Dindo L. Jacob

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BALANCE SHEET
(Head Office and Branches)
As of March 31, 2010

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash and Cash Items	
Due from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas	
Due from Banks	
Interbank Loans Receivable	
Investment Securities	
Loans and Receivables	
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment	
Investment Properties	
Deferred Income Tax Asset	
Other Assets	
TOTAL ASSETS	
LIABILITIES	
Deposit Liabilities	
Bills Payable	
Subordinated Debt	
Other Liabilities	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Capital Stock	
Additional Paid-in Capital	
Retained Earnings	
Treasury Stock	
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	
Guarantees Issued	
Financial Standby Letters of Credit	
Commercial Letters of Credit	
Trust Department Accounts	
Unused Credit Lines	
Spot Foreign Exchange Contracts	
Derivative Contracts	
Others	
Total Contingent Accounts	
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Investment in Treasury Bills	
Investment in Government Bonds	
Investment in Private Debt Securities	
Non-Performing Loans (NPL)	
Ratio of Total Non-Performing Loans to Total Loan Portfolio (NPL/TLP)	
Allowance for Credit Losses	
Allowance for Trading Losses	
Deposits Covered by Insurance	
Capital Funds	
Risk Assets	
Capital Adequacy Ratio (CAR)	
Ratio of Total Capital to Risk Assets	

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REVIEW/CLEARANCE

ENDORSEMENT/CONCURRENCE

Malaysian stockholder seeks full control of SLEx

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE MALAYSIAN COMPANY THAT financed and did all the road is considering to buy the remaining 40 percent stake in Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. (PSE).

The move comes after the company reports the full benefits of the project and steps in charge of the road's operations.

Ibrahim Ismail, president and CEO of Southern Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC), said the company's parent would likely exercise its option to buy a substantial stake in the road currently held by Philippine Stock Corporation Corp. (PSEC).

PSEC is now selling its 40-percent stake in SLEx Construction Holdings Sdn Expressway Systems Inc. (SMHSI). The same may have also to hold a 20-percent stake in SLTC, which is also up for sale.

Both MARS and SLTC are controlled by Malaysian conglomerate MTD Capital Berhad, which holds the right of first refusal to acquire the shares held by PSEC. This means the latter selling their shares to anyone else PSEC needs to give MTD Capital first a chance to buy them.

"At the right price, we'll exercise our right of first refusal because it will be easier to make decisions if we have 100 percent of the voting rights," Ismail said in an interview.

Groups that have expressed interest in buying PSEC's SLEx stake include local infrastructure giant Metro Pacific Investments Corp., which is chaired by businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, and diversified conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

San Tollways Corp., the operator of the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road, has also offered to buy the stake, but is lacking.

PSEC is divested to sell its stake in SLEx to raise funds to help the government play its following budget shortfall.

Despite being exempt from the ban against any government-owned or -controlled firm entering transaction, 90 days before the election, PSEC has opted to have the auction be in SLEx interest done after the May 10 polls.

Gov't reports higher ...

From page B1

on fundraising since the 1990s.

Also in March, official development assistance of which the government availed rose by 21% percent to P6.03 billion from last year's P6.03 billion.

Further, new borrowings from domestic lenders increased in March by 47 percent to P1.07 billion from P0 billion the previous year.

The increase was partly due to a net flow of Treasury bills that amounted to P5.6.6 billion.

The government ended net P232.79 billion in cash payments by foreign loans—a decrease of 16.5 percent from P31.43 billion.

At the same time, the government paid P40.06 billion in domestic debts—8 percent higher than the P41.4 billion settled a year ago.

Banks register ...

From page B1

rose and were fit fitted partly by an increase in the number of operating banks, was a drop deceleration from the double-digit levels seen prior to the recent financial crisis. But the central bank said that the expansion of credit seen is still encouraging when compared to other countries now experiencing a credit crunch.

The BSP said credit growth last year partially aided a modest rise of the economy, which grew by 0.9 percent, ending a much-feared recession.

This year, the banking industry expects income growth of at least 10 percent.

For accounting to industry players, the projection is still conservative as much improved global economic conditions may help further boost income of most banks.

The BSP expects banking to accelerate more than the global economy is expected to be as it starts to recover this year. Improving confidence will help encourage banks to lend more, while borrowers may tap more credit for consumption and investment initiatives, regulators said.

RP set to open trade window for neighbors

By Russiel N. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINES MAY SOON DEfinite system that will ease the processing of import documents—making yet another step toward the establishment of a unified market between Southeast Asia.

Under the "national single window" (NSW) system, authorities have established links with 19 governmental agencies that represent 80 percent of all import permit transactions in the country. Deputy Customs Commissioner Alexander M. Arevalo said in an interview.

The agencies are the Board of Investments, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, National Food Administration, and the Sugar Regulatory Administration, as well as the bureaus of customs, animal industries, food and drugs, internal revenue, plant industries, and product standards.

The "single window" refers to a system that allows importers to submit documents only once, which are then processed at the same time. Once the new system takes effect, traders may no longer have to deal with various government agencies separately.

The single submission and synchronous processing of data and information means that the division to release cargoes will come from just one office.

At issue in the system is to place customs processes will become more efficient and transparent.

"Soon, 10 other agencies will link up with the NSW. It is a system-wide through which they exchange and share import permits and clearances," Arevalo said.

Once the Philippine NSW becomes fully operational, the country will be the second after Singapore among the 20 Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members to be fully compliant with the Asean single window initiative (ASW).

Zero tariff on GI sheet raw materials OKd

By Abigail L. Hu

THE CABINET LEVEL TARIFF AND NEAR Makers committee has scrapped the 7-percent tariff imposed on cold rolled coils (CRCs) and hot rolled coils (HRCs), the trade materials for the production of galvanized iron roofing sheets, to prevent prices of the construction material from spiking.

In a text message, Trade Secretary Jose S. Lapus said the scrapping of the tariff was approved during the April 28 meeting of the TEM. A draft executive order would be drafted and taken up at the National Economic and Development Authority board.

The final EO would then be submitted to President Arroyo for her signature.

"The TEM approved the zero-percent tariff on HRC and CRC on April 28 to avoid supply shortage and price hikes. The tariff will be restored to 7 percent the moment Global Steel (Philippines Inc.) starts commercial operations," Lapus said.

CRCs are raw materials used in the production of GI roofing sheets, while HRCs are used in the manufacture of CRCs. Both products are dapped on import duty of 7 percent.

The TEM initiated a review of the tariff rates on steel products, following a 100-percent hike in steel ore cost in the world market.

The three biggest mining companies in the world—BHP Billiton Ltd., Rio Tinto and Cosnic—had hiked the prices of their iron ore.

This move had resulted in an increase of between $1.00 and $1.50 per metric ton in the prices of steel materials such as slabs.

EBDOS

INVESTMENT FUND	Net Asset Value Per Unit	
	4/23/2010	4/26/2010
PNB RL 2015 Fund	1.1721	1.1581

INVESTMENT FUND	Net Asset Value Per Unit	
	4/23/2010	4/26/2010
ALFM Peso Bond Fund	248.45	248.59
ALFM Dollar Bond Fund	255.14	255.28

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As the country's leading electricity generating company, our plants use indigenous fuel resources like geothermal, natural gas and hydroelectric energy. Our aim is to meet the Filipinos' growing demand for power and help the country achieve energy self-sufficiency with the smallest carbon footprint possible.

Traffic rants

No Free Lunch

Cirilo P. Bautista

LAST FRIDAY, I WAS 40 MINUTES late for a speaking engagement in Manila after traveling over four hours from my home in Los Baños. I agonize on a trip that normally takes only nine and a half hours. But these are not normal times at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX), especially at the Alabang-Sucat area each day.

Construction on the six-way extension has limited possible lanes to two at its narrowest, especially on the northbound side, creating a bottleneck where as many as six lanes of vehicles on the area suddenly Alabang-market opposed into two. Worse mind that the market officially has only four lanes; we all know how in the Philippines, lane markers—just like lane discipline—are treated as mere suggestions.

"Multiplier effect"

Filipino drivers ("only in the Philippines," as they say) have a knack for creating a new lane wherever there's a hole—should fit, for solong as there are a few inches of clearance to the next vehicle.

But nowhere with that, it seems, around tatum for our drivers to create yet another lane on the shoulder, also (not to mention the road shoulder) as the slightest traffic backup, thereby creating not just a bottleneck but also a gridlock. That may not mean up to create up to 6 lanes out of four, or what is more common, five lanes out of two—in the Filipino road economy of the "multiplier effect."

It doesn't take much to see that if people only had the discipline to wait for their turn and respect the designated lanes, a bottleneck of four lanes in one is shrinking/four would move faster than six into two. Were so if impatient drivers would only respect the lanes on a two-lane stretch, and not create a bottleneck where there should be none.

Choke points

Another notorious thoroughfare is Edsa, where traffic grinds to a crawl in many portions, only to suddenly clear up after passing the next bus stop. There, the buses are all piled up, stopped in angles straddling two lanes, and spilling well beyond their designated yellow lines because the drivers wouldn't line up and wait for their turn to load and unload passengers. The Makabayan buses on both sides, and Megastar on the southbound side are especially notorious for this. What makes these choke points particularly annoying is that the problem is so un-necessary and could be avoided if only more discipline is enforced on drivers to wait for their turn at the bus stops.

And then there's my other pet peeve: at rush hours on the south-bound side of SLEx approaching the Alabang exit, and northbound approaching the Sucat exit, one often gets delayed because exiting vehicles don't want to get in line and line up in the proper exit lanes. Instead, drivers insist on encroaching on the inner then traffic lanes, blocking them as they stop and try to muscle their way into the exit lane at the last minute. Traffic-safe would advise to avoid second where these drivers are allowed to get away with it, while those who patiently line up and obey the rules get penalized with unnecessary delays.

One wishes that the SLEx management would deploy traffic-enforcers in apprehend and fine those inconsiderate, impatient line-hoists. And what gains me is that their expensive vehicles tell me that many of these people must be well-heeled and well-educated. I tend to be more forgiving of poverty and bus drivers fighting for passengers in an effort to earn their meager daily take.

More horrid views

Another favorite: In making a left turn at an intersection, impatient drivers who won't line up in the inner left-turning lanes get ahead by having their way in from the outer lanes for vehicles that should be going straight through. The obedient ones who dutifully stay on the proper lane for the turn then get squeezed in and further delayed. Therefore, this is a sure way to get a traffic citation and fine, but only in the Philippines again, such boorish behavior is reinforced and rewarded, as traffic enforcers not only tolerate them but often even abet them by waving the impatient drivers through.

And last but not least

Zero...

(Continued from page B1)

billers, wire outs, RBCs and CBCs.

Local government collect theoretical to raise the prices of 53 items by 7.1-i ground to reflect the increase in the prices of food products in the world market. They agreed, however, to hold off on jacking up their prices while the 70M was still reviewing the levy on CBCs and RBCs.

The 7-percent tariff on flours are meanwhile, Filipino Confectioners Institute president Salvio Perez earlier said, not only concentrated the already high would market prices that local gol ers had to bear, but also defeated the tariff scenario.

He explained that while raw materials were shipped a 7-percent levy, the allied goods such as pre-painted steel sheets and GI sheets entered the country duty free, causing a tariff distortion in the detriment of local manufacturers.

The removal of duties on CBCs and RBCs stated in the directive, he said.

TUA GETS ISO CERTIFICATION

Rising awarding of ISO certificate (left to right) Dr. Ephraim Ridago, TUA vice president for academic affairs; The Most Rev. Dr. Edward Malvar, prelate bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines; Ms. Leonora Virginia, TUA vice president for administration and Promotion; Dr. Ramaya and Ms. Ann Ramaya

firmly University or less (TUA), a private educational institution sponsored by the Philippine Episcopal and the Philippine Independent Churches, was awarded an ISO certificate by the Bureau Generale de Surveillance (BGS) for a commitment outstanding with the University might, one of the activities in the week-long celebration of TUA's 47th founding anniversary.

University President Dr. Rolando Gonzales, received the certificate from BGS Division Manager for System & Services Certification, Mr. Roger Villanueva after the university met the requirements of ISO 9001 : 2008.

Dr. Gonzales is the first woman president of TUA. From the day she assumed office, she vowed to make a difference. True to her words, Gonzales first upgraded the facilities of the campus. Every corner is captivating with green landscape which was loved by people who camped there and study.

Touring her tasks as a commander, she even personally visited the abominable places in classrooms areas of the buildings not for vanity but for pride. After all, Emily has a rich history and as its bountiful blessings continue to pour it in remains passionate in keeping the vast tri- lumes through its many series.

The campus facade and grounds were ornamented and sanitized. The once grassy grounds was converted to a multi-purpose arena with a mini-stage and later named polo fronted by palms as venues for bigger events. For security and safety, the campus was fenced and replanted grounds are now were installed.

The problem of leaky drainage and sewerage was corrected by tapping an in-house engineer. A new drainage is being to house the canteen was built to nourish the more than 6,000 students and faculty and staff residing decent and safe there. The old Mary Welch Hall was given a facelift to accommodate more classroom for the College of Hotel & Tourism Management students.

Gonzales now enter the campus and the beautiful chapel with a prayer garden to cultivate Christianity in the hearts of thirsters, and a university house to give living students a feel of home away from home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT IBG. CRISTY SUTSOBRE AT 09214274116.

Ayala Land launches first BPO campus in Baguio

Ayala Land breaks ground for its first BPO campus in Baguio. Present during the ceremonies were (from left to right) Alfredo Ongpin III, Computer Bay Development Inspection Allied Operating Officer; Ms. Cristina Corona, John Key Management Corporation Chairman and President; Alberto Amon de Ion Zuno, Bases Conversion Development Authority Executive Vice President; Non Gonzalo Beaniza Jr., Baguio City Mayor; Hon. Mauricio Domogan, Congressman of the Lone District of Baguio; Amando Aquino, Ayala Land Inc. President; and CEO; Pedro Hizon, Team Leader - Forest & Watershed Management of Natural Monitoring Team

Ayala Land Inc. breaks ground for its first mixed-use development in the city of Baguio. The Baguio Ayala Land Technohub is envisioned to be an integrated IT community consisting of five to seven low-rise buildings with approximately 5,000 to 000 square meters gross leasable area each within a 10 hectare property of the Camp John Hay Special Economic Zone.

Set amidst the temperate environment of Baguio City and the idyllic landscaped greeneries of Camp John Hay, the office campus development is designed to address the unique requirements of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and Information Technology-enabled services Technology-Enabled Services (IT/ITES) firms. The Baguio Ayala Land Technohub will be support led by a retail component featuring select retail concepts.

Construction of the first building is scheduled to begin by the second quarter of this year. It is targeted to be completed by December 2010.

Upon completion, the development is expected to generate more than 10,000 jobs from the BPO offices, retail establishments and support maintenance services. The retail component will attract both residents and tourists alike, further supporting the local economy and the tourism industry of the city.

The Business Processing Association of the Philippines (BAP) has placed Baguio City as part of its top 10 Next Wave Cities. Philippine cities can take advantage of the city's talent pool, with over 14 colleges and universities producing about 23,000 graduates per year. This together with the city's available infrastructure, its cost competitiveness and its friendly business environment add to Baguio's attractiveness as a BPO destination.

INFOTECH

Testing one headset: to prove it sound-specific consumers LIKE it, don't tell them which brand it is, p3

Dr. Dre-inspired headphones hit RP market

By Charles E. Rohac

DR. DRE MAY NOT BE A genuine audiophile now, but he can do wonders in producing stereo albums and managing tech rap stars as Snoop Dogg, 50 Cent and Eminem, winning Grammy Awards along the way.

The man born as Andre Romelle Young is now a legend.

Recently, the founder and current CEO of Aftermath Entertainment made a hasty turn into the booming consumer electronics market—producing his own series of premium high performance headphones called Beats by Dr. Dre.

To accomplish this, Dr. Dre had to team up with Monster Cable Products Inc., a leading manufacturer of high-end and high performance cables for audio and home theater products.

"The result is a collection of headphones that deliver an unprecedented combination of super deep bass, smooth undistorted highs, and crystal clear sounds across broad hotbar bass headphones," said William Kamm, owner of Eclectic Marketing Corp., exclusive distributor of Monster Beats by Dr. Dre here in the country.

Reason

Dr. Dre's reason for coming up with his own line of headphones is simple: He said in an official statement that "people aren't hearing all the music. Artists and producers work hard in the studio perfecting their sound. But people don't really hear it with normal headphones. Most headphones can't handle the bass, the detail, the dynamic range. Sometimes, the music doesn't move you. With Beats, people are going to hear what the artists, Jimmy Iovine and I mixed and they should ... the very I do."

But before discussing this as a marketing gimmick, this writer wondered several of the headphones up for sale.

Reasoning this premium line of headphones is the Monster Beats by Dr. Dre "Studio," at P11,000, two would presume that this recommended credit caps that cost off the said headphones is just a worst-looking headset backed by Dirty celebrity media personality—Bones. The steep price is commensurate.

But the Studio turns out to be impressive.

Extra-large speakers

The headphones' combines extra-large speaker drivers (40mm), a high-powered digital amplifier, and an active noise canceling technology (you need AAA batteries to make this work).

As a result, the Studio can block out ambient noise (noise originating from rumbling vehicle engine, traffic and conversations) and improve one's ability to hear subtle sounds that may have been inaudible to others using in-ear-the canceling headphones.

Of course, the headphone is equipped with a 1.3m-long detangled Monster cable that features Quadripole construction—four twisted pair construction—that is designed to reduce signal loss as it travels from the source device to the headphone's drivers.

Also, the cable now comes in a convenient 24k gold mini jacks that maximize signal transfer.

Apart from the Studio, other Monster Beats by Dr. Dre products are also now available in the market: "Solo" (P12,500), "Tour" (P15,900) and "Headphones by Lady Gaga," to suit

Waterproof cam spells fun at the beach

Text and photos by Eugene Arsenio

WHAT CAN BE MORE fun and exciting than spending time on a beach—swimming, snorkeling and surfing?

It will also be nice to take pictures of friends and family having fun at the beach. But first, you will need a waterproof camera so that your pictures won't wash up with the surf.

With a suggested retail price of only P6,999, the GE E2WP waterproof digital camera seems to be the cheapest on waterproof point-and-shoot around.

The 12.2 megapixel camera can go underwater and take pictures or videos up to 10 feet.

Priced with a Chargel-Coupled Device (CCD) image sensor, the camera can determine various scene types or conditions and automatically optimizes exposure for clearer and vibrant images.

The camera has a 4X optical zoom and an ISO sensitivity range of 64 to 3200, to name but a few. the various distances and lighting conditions.

It is also equipped with an image stabilization feature that automatically helps reduce camera shake up to 50 percent for a better and sharper image.

Another interesting feature of this camera is its capability to capture panoramic shots with the new panning assist the scenes in one can in ultra-wide panoramic photograph.

The camera can record a video at 30 fps (frames per second) with a 1280 x 720 resolution and standard MPEG-4 video format.

Other features of the waterproof camera include blink detection (shows the user if the subject blinks in a photo is taken), face detection (detects faces in a scene is crowd), and smile detection (automatically releases the shutter when a subject smiles).

The GE E2WP is for the budget-conscious consumer who wants a practical camera equipped with robust features that he or she can bring to the beach without spending the extra bucks.

Taiwan tech manufacturer develops smartphones for the masses

By Raquel P. Gerasco

TAIWANESE MANUFACTURER HTC is serious about bringing its touch technology to the masses.

Sometime ago, it introduced entry-level and mid-range touch phones that featured the HTC Bravo (or xaro/Elevate) and graphics-enhanced touch user interface loaded with store features.

Recently, HTC introduced three new flavors to touch up its smartphone line—the HTC Desire, HTC Legend, and HTC HD Mini. But not to the seventh's Windows Mobile platforms and two new mobile operating systems—Google's Android and Qualcomm's Brew platforms.

HTC has created a new category of smart phones for the masses with HTC Smart, a device that runs on Brew mobile OS. It retails for only P4,999.

By adopting the Brew mobile OS into its smartphones, HTC was able to lower the price of its devices without sacrificing any of the smartphone features.

HTC Smart has a 240 x 320 pixel TFT touchscreen display, a 3.2-megapixel camera, 3.5 MP camera, micro SD slot, and 3.5 Mbps HSDPA connectivity.

With a suggested retail price of P13,750, the HTC Legend has already entered the high-end category. Some of the Android device key standouts include its 3.2-inch AMOLED capacitive touchscreen (320 x 480 HVGA resolution) display, super fluid, a gently customized desktop highlighted by a frosted Chat inspiration mobility.

Finally, HTC made a name out of its high-end flagship smartphone the HTC HD. Powered by a Qualcomm 8Q MHz processor, the HTC Mini features all the nice things that may be found in its bigger sibling the HTC HD.

For example, it has nice and fine graphics provided by HTC Sense UI. Its Windows Mobile OS comes with nice apps for Internet use as well as its office use.

Truly a business and internet smartphone, the HTC HD Mini focuses on people-centric communication with its Microsoft Outlook integration.

It provides a single contacts view that displays all types of communications with a particular contact—email, text, call, and Facebook updates.

It features a Windows-based Twitter application—the HTC Peep—that enables you to tweet and follow your tweeps stream.

Suggested retail price for the HTC HD Mini is P29,990.

HTC's adoption of multiple

AT LEFT: the HD Mini has all the features of its bigger sibs, the HTC HD. Above, the HTC Smart.

mobile OSes to run its phones has helped drive the expansion of the smartphone market, opening it up to more consumers, including those who are not considered to be tech-savvy.

Many phone makers believe that the smartphones, which offer wide browsing, e-mail, and full-fledged PC, is the future of communication devices.

Digital Lab becomes marketers' playground

SITTRALMOST ONE OF THREE FILIPINOS connected to the Internet, while 42 percent own a mobile phone, Filipinos are digitally connected more than ever.

That's why in three-tiered and succeeding connected times, being in the know is an avenue for being left out of the advertising trend that is digital marketing.

This is the reason why DIGO Gocurves/Proximity Philippines recently launched Digital Lab—a space to inspire share, learn, play and celebrate all things digital for its clients and staff.

"We have established our Digital Lab to enable marketers to discuss top possibilities in their business, to provide a physical and online space where our can discover new ways to engage people in a constantly evolving digital landscape," said Richard Peters, regional managing director of Proximity Asia and one of the speakers during Digital Lab's first by-invitation listening series at the Ayala Museum.

Digital Lab in Manila is only the second such lab in the world—the first one was launched in New York.

"The importance of engaging them in these digital spaces poses a challenge to marketers. Digital is in fact just a platform, but a language that marketers need to speak and understand," explained Jacob Cacalla II, Brew-General, general manager of Proximity Philippines.

Declaring that Filipinos are enthusiastic digital consumers is an understatement.

The Philippines is one of the most active digital networking nations in the world, being the world leader in consumption of online video and one of the most socially interconnected nations in the Asia-Pacific. Considering this, going digital is based on a simple rule of thumb in running an effective campaign, follow what your consumers are doing.

"If they spend all percent of their time online, then that's where you take your brand and your message," said Anand Thakur of Google South East Asia, one of the speakers at the event.

Creating an effective digital marketing campaign, meanwhile, can't still develop long-gone content, according to Shal Bushard, CEO of DIGO Gocurves/Proximity Philippines.

"The real nature of social media and how it can help brands is important, but you got to start with great content. Because if you have content that's not compelling then no one's going to share it so media buys don't people are connected to each other," said Bushard.

Given the pervasiveness of digital media in the country, envy you get to engage people, the return on involvement or engagement may be huge.

Weaning viewers away from ancient CRTs

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SINGAPORE—CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT) televisions have been around for decades and, despite the march of technology over the years, they still account for almost nine of 10 televisions throughout Asia-Pacific.

And the main reason why the thinner and more energy efficient televisions with high- definition liquid crystal displays (LCD) have not been able to make a significant dent in the developing region's growing television market is the cheap price.

Most LCD televisions are about twice more expensive than the CRT televisions of the same size, putting them out of reach of most households.

Japan's Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. of the Matsushita group, however, believes that it has found the best way to woo customers away from CRTs and onto LCDs with its latest, entry-level 24-inch/61cm LCD TV.

Sanyo's Vision has the basic features that LCDs have, such as dynamic contrast for blacker blacks and better color contrast, details the easy connection to a personal computer and equalizer and bass expander for a gratifying gaming experience.

But the biggest draw to its supposed retail price of P35,995, which puts it in the same level as a CRT TV of about the same size.

According to Sanyo vice president Satoru Hattta, one of Sanyo's goals this year is to aggressively promote LCD TV among current CRT owners who are thinking of upgrading their viewing experience.

"If the product is right and the price is right, we can capture the market," Hatta said.

Sanyo estimates that there is ready room for growth in the Asia-Pacific electronics market, with sales of flat-panel televisions projected to grow by as much as 41 percent by 2012.

Yoshinori Nakatani, chief regional officer of Sanyo Electric, estimates that with its range of LCD TVs (selling the Asia-Pacific market, Sanyo expects LCD televisions—including its 24-inch Vision LCD—to account for half of its television sales in roughly two years.

24-hour Comelec vigil

By Erlenia H. Ordoñez

IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, THERE HAVE been many news items about the proposal of many groups for no nails. Though often labeled a manual parallel count, the more accurate description is a 100-percent precinct manual audit.

Using the binary vote has been proposed to mean that all election positions in the entire country will be manually counted.

But the vote seven the senatorial of the group supporting this proposal.

The proposed manual count is primarily intended to determine whether the computer count has been rigged or not.

If the computer count is similar to the manual count, then it can be assumed that the computer was not rigged.

But if the two counts are significantly different, there is the possibility of computer rigging. Without this automatic total audit, we would not know if there is rigging or not.

Agreement in jeopardy

Akbayan Agrifederation has expressed its opposition to Comelec Commissioners Gregorio Larrazabal for his significant help in getting an agreement on one of the Women's Sectoral representation.

Last April 16, leaders from the Akbayan, the IT professionals, and the business community met with him and other Comelec officials in a six-hour dialogue in Manila.

At the end of the meeting, Comelec agreed to install projectors in each canvassing center so there will only the final vote count in the results reflected in the Certificate of Canvass (COC), but also each individual precinct vote count to be reflected in the Statement of Votes (SOV).

Prior to this agreement, we had been informed that there was a plan to provide the final vote count for the entire COC, but not the individual precinct count (SOV). This would have been disadvantage for us to monitor.

First, we would not be able to match the precinct count electoral at the precinct level with the precinct count used to determine the final vote in the canvassing center. Secondly, we would not be able to determine whether all the precinct votes were included in the vote canvassing center count.

However, this agreement has not yet been included in the Comelec's General Instructions (GI) for canvassing centers. If not done immediately, this agreement may not take place at all, thus severely damaging the elections' integrity and credibility.

Future action

Last April 20, the Comelec issued down the proposed originally labeled as a "modified manual count". This proposed includes some details, such as using a 1 percent threshold (difference between the manual and automated counts to determine if there was rigging or not.

But on that same day, there was an agreement between the audit proponents and Comelec that the threshold could be altered after the "real count" of the vote count discrepancy is determined.

The audit proponents realized that this detail in their proposal could have been improved, so could other details. Thus, they asked for more time and further dialogue, but this was not granted.

But "we thought we threw the baby out with the bath water". It's details such as this which can be discussed and improved so that the version of the 100-percent precinct manual audit proposed can still be implemented properly.

We recommend that the dialogues between Comelec officials and proponents of credible and correct elections continue to proceed. This will include adding conducted elements to the Comelec's GI.

(Bernadette is chair of Agrinvest and director-undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. Her inquiries and suggestions, email: agrinvest_phil@yahoo.com or telefax 403-1052/211-0)

COMMENTARY

RP to gain from trade pact of Taiwan, China, Meco says

By Jerry E. Esmaz

THE LONG-DELAYED STEP TO EARLY ratify the cross-strait economic pact between Taiwan and China, contrary to popular belief that the agreement would endanger the country's status as a top destination for Taiwanese investments, according to the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taipei.

Antonio Basilio, Meco managing director and resident representative, said that the Philippines "will continue to receive more than its fair share of investments and job-creation from one of the region's top IT centers."

In a statement, Basilio said the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) would eliminate over tariffs on goods traded between China and Taiwan, except on many agricultural products.

However, many say rising costs in China has made Taiwanese locate, particularly those in the low to medium-tech and labor-intensive industries, consider relocating their operations to investor-friendly and lower-cost manufacturing hubs like the Philippines, he added.

"These have been some notable successes in this regard, particularly in the hardware, cooking supplements and even those manufacturing industries. Taiwanese hardware and bicycle manufacturers have recently factored in China but have also been looking at the Philippines as a likely site for their offshore operations," he added.

And as Taiwan transitions into a service-driven, knowledge-based economy, Taiwanese companies would likely outsource their business processing needs to countries like the Philippines.

Coco oil . . .

From page B6-1

81,451 tons, according to new estimates from Ecap. The initial estimate was 72,440 tons. Exports in February 2009 reached 21,319 tons.

March exports reached 134,459 tons, according to Ecap's revised estimates. An early survey by Ibarra reports placed members' take at 127,162 tons of coconut oil while just 44,610 tons in the same period in 2009.

This, even in the commodity market's increasing in value amid strong demand in industrialized markets.

Ecap is still verifying members' reports to come up with official figures for February and March.

Agustin said that improved supply of copra, the raw material for making coconut oil, boosted exports.

She also said that last year's report levels reported in 2009 gave the industry much room for growth.

But more importantly, the recovery in exports indicated growth in demand from major markets for coconut oil such as the United States and Europe.

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BUSINESS Monday

Isuzu Philippines gets new president

'I will always hope for the Philippines' economy and auto industry to grow,' Takeda says

By Abigail L. Ho

ISUZU PHILIPPINES Corp. (IPC) has appointed a new president, Ryoji Yamazaki, following the end of the three-year tour of duty of outgoing president Koji Takeda recently.

During the turnover ceremony on Monday evening, Takeda told the local auto industry goodbye as he take on the role of associate division executive of the international division of parent Isuzu Motors Limited (IMC) in Japan.

In his new post, he would be in charge of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations market, as well as China and Taiwan.

"Three years flew really. I suppose I enjoyed my way in this beautiful country as much that I didn't even notice I was already up for reassignment. I will always cherish my time in the Philippines," Takeda says.

"I have seen the amazing progress of our automotive industry in spite of global economic difficulties. I would like to believe that I was able to steer IPC in the right direction during a critical time for the whole industry. We continued to hold a strong position in the market despite the fact that there was a remarkable increase in the number of players. I will always hope for your economy and auto industry to grow," he adds.

Taking over the reins at IPC is Yamazaki, most recently general manager of IMC's International Operations Group of Africa, Europe and Oceania.

The 53-year-old Yamazaki is no stranger to the Philippines, as during his early days with ISIL, he was assigned to the sales division and was put in charge of the Philippine market.

He was then tasked to oversee the Korea, Taiwan and India markets, and after that was placed in charge of Isuzu's joint venture project in China in 1998.

He was promoted to manager in a year later and was eventually tasked to handle the vehicle manufacturer's entire Chinese operations. In 1997, he was tasked to handle Africa and Oceania and had since then supervised various markets in Asia and the Middle East.

"I was once tasked to oversee the Philippine market, so I have always had a soft spot for this country. I believe that my vast experience in supervising Isuzu's operations in various international markets will go a long way in enabling me to lead IPC to new heights," Yamazaki says.

"I acknowledge the impressive achievements that my predecessor has accomplished, and I pledge that I will continue the good work he has done in maintaining Isuzu's leadership in the market when it comes to diesel engine technology," he adds.

Before stepping down, Takeda says IPC was on track to reach its target of selling 19,500 units this year, from last year's more than 17,200 units in sales.

In the first quarter, IPC sold 3,681 units, 26.6 percent higher than the 1,896 units sold in the same period the year before. The company held a 6.2-percent share of the market as of end-March.

GOINGS-ON

Meat, fish processing seminar set

THE GOLDEN TREASURE SKILLS DEVELOPment Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing at the PITC, Department of Trade and Industry Bldg., DTI Roces Ofel., cor. Senator Gil Puyat Ave. on May 8, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants will get to experience how to make cocina, siomai longganisa, Chinese cooked sausage, embutido, chicken nuggets, chicken and pork ham, pork lokloksilog, tuna ham, spanish and tuna sardine, fish burger, squid ball, canned beef.

Bonus courses include how to make vegetable pickles.

For questions, call 4367838, 4311571; or 09 28551 or log on to www.Golden Treasure5656.com

SM unit visits communities

As SM continues to build structures and businesses in the country, the SM Foundation, its corporate social responsibility arm, likewise continues to respond to the needs of communities through its health advocacy by bringing its medical missions nationwide.

With a team of doctors, dentist, nurses, nutritionist, medical technologists and other providers of medical services, SMFI quietly visits communities in need of these services. In the first quarter, 16 medical missions have been conducted in Manila, Baguio City, Mindoro, Cebu, Batangas and Pampanga.

A total of 15,287 individuals benefited from the medical missions that had project cost hover the Philippine Medical Association, Philippine National Red Cross, Department of Health, Department of Social Welfare and Development, ICI International, Pan Pharmaceutical, Multicare Pharmaceutical, Wilkes Pharma, World Citi College, D.C. General Hospital, Philippine Children's Medical Center, Lost Horizon medical center, Biotech Institute of the Philippines, Rupina Ko, Mahal Ko, Pinas Veterans, Federation of Swine Clubs Inc. (Baguio, Cebu, Quezon City and San Fernando), Rhodora and Angeles in Pampanga, and Capitol Medical Center.

Medical missions held in the provinces are done for 2-3 days to accommodate all who want to avail of free medical services. More serious cases are referred to government hospitals although SM Foundation staff members like coordinators of the referred patient and private first-class nurses from the Ramon Pino to Kapwa pharmacy.

Franchise Expo 2010 set

The nonbooming Franchise Expo 2010 of the Philippine Franchise Association (PFA) is expected to have 200 booths and 50,000 visitors.

An integral component of Franchise 2010 the 18th Philippine International Franchise Conference and Expo (PFCE), Franchise Expo 2010 is slated at the SMX Convention Center on July 16-18, which will occupy over 10,000 square meters of exhibit space, providing a sneak preview of the Franchise Asia 2011 that will be held in Manila on Sept. 27-30 next year, according to PFA chair Robert Sy-ca.

Coinciding Franchise Expo 2010 is an educational activities of local and international franchisors, exciting business presentations, and vigorous industry networking and marketing activities.

For more information, visit www.franchise2010.com and register online for special admission rates.

Developing Philippine organizations

By Gina Hechanova
Contributor

IN A CONSTANTLY SHAKING world, companies are finding themselves having to rapidly evolve less they be left behind. But changing to evolve organizations can be a Herculean feat, especially when an organization has a long history and rich traditions.

The field of Organization Development (OD) plays an important role in helping organizations manage and adapt to change.

The Human Capital for Organization Research and Development and Alfred Pete Marrow started out a study to examine the practice of Organization Development in the Philippines and the factors contributing to the success of OD practice. Some 30 practitioners from various organizations were tagged to complete the study.

The study reveals the primary concerns of Philippine organizations are improving productivity, leadership development, capability building, employee retention, motivation and well-being, quality and customer service. Although the practice of OD is active and well, there is also a sense that organizations still do not fully appreciate what OD can do. Here they can recognize maximize the impact of OD?

Leadership development

The study revealed that in the Philippines, OD is mainly driven by HR. The study also reveals that the major factor contributing to the success of the OD practice in the Philippines is the top management involvement and support. However, this presupposes that our organization leaders understand OD principles and processes. It is thus important that organization leaders develop their capabilities in competencies such as strategic thinking, systems thinking, diagnosis and change management.

Show me the numbers

Perhaps one reason why OD has not been fully embraced by the line is that there is a lack of evidence of the impact of OD on organizational effectiveness. The typical question of organizations is "Show me where facts" with making a decision on any intervention or strategy is "Will it make an impact on my bottom line?" Unless this question is answered, it will be difficult to convince organizations of the value of OD. This suggests the need for evaluation research.

Building the capability of OD practitioners

The study also suggests that there is a need to develop fundamental competencies in OD among practitioners. Although OD practitioners appear adept at interventions, there is a need for better grounding on strategic management, diagnosis and evaluation.

Clearly, although the practice of Organization Development is alive and well, there are still concerns and issues that face the practice of the OD in Philippine organizations. The primary issue it seems is the need to build capability among leaders and practitioners on OD. This is critical in order to maximize the potentials of OD and to bring Philippine organizations to greater heights.

[The author is the wife of Ateneo de Manila University Department of Psychology chair is launching an MA in Industrial Organizational Psychology major in OD and a PhD in Leadership studies major in OD. For more information about these programs, please e-mail ateneocod@yahoo.com.ph.]

WORKPLACE WISDOM

Building trust and reputation through Corporate Social Responsibility

MAPPING THE FUTURE
Jarvis S. del Mundo

CORPORATE REPUTATION IS A company's most important asset.

Around the world, companies have realized that corporate reputation gives them a competitive advantage—from marketing their products to attracting the best talents.

An equally important asset is sustainability, defined in Penn Case Eaeh as to enter World, as "the process of change in which the exploitation of resources, the direction of investments, the orientation of technological development, and institutional changes are made consistent with the future as well as present needs."

To a large extent, corporate reputation is a function of how a company addresses the issue of sustainability in its operations.

It is not hard to imagine that for many Filipino companies, saddled with the conventional way of operating in a developing economy, achieving sustainability is a much bigger challenge.

However, this is a very short-term view that may have long-term implications on their corporate reputation.

A more sustainable way of building corporate reputation is through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Definitely CSR—when integrated into the life of a corporation—can build corporate reputation.

Not philanthropy

For companies with existing CSR campaigns, it is important not to confuse this with philanthropy. Richard Steinhard, chair of CSR Asia, notes that in the Philippines, many large companies are "extremely" generous in giving away money through their foundations, but they are not getting their money's worth through their activities.

For CSR efforts to truly be sustainable, Philippine companies need to move their lens of their businesses and see how they can create their competitive advantage like new.

It involves strategic planning and integration in the company's business plan.

Companies, in this regard, are pursuing a more sustainable model of CSR when making profit is enhanced by enlightened self-interest.

Asian Sustainability Rating

Last October 2009, the Asian Sustainability Rating (ASR) benchmarking and covering the top 20 firms by market capitalization in six Asian markets, was released by CSR Asia.

The study was undertaken in Australia, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Singapore and Thailand. Information was gathered from publicly available sources only such as annual financial reports, CSR reports, corporate websites, brochures and presentations. The ASR scores were based on 11 indicators covering six major areas: governance, codes and policies; CSR strategy and communication; marketplace and supply chain; workplace and people; environment; and community and development.

Only two Filipino firms—Ayala Corporation and Ayala Land—made it to the top 20 of the overall ring, which cannot as a disappointment considering that many Philippine companies have global footprints and considerable profits. The rest Filipino companies in the list—Bloomy and San Miguel—ranked way behind the top.

In particular, Philippine companies were observed to be lacking in the area of disclosure—a fact that regulators and the private sector have long recognized as a problem area, but have yet addressed thoroughly. In particular, the ASR report noted that disclosure on environmental, social and governance issues was "surprisingly poor" given the size and global reach of the companies investigated.

Right tools

Interestingly, the report noted that Philippine companies do provide information on community impact and on development. This focus on the here (but there) companies, in fact, puts about the well-being of their stakeholders and the community at large. They only have to use the right tools in addressing these issues, as well as communicate these properly. At the same time, Filipino companies could also address their efforts by disclosing information on other important areas.

Alongside this, they should begin looking at integrating CSR into operations. For instance, advisers could look toward a campaign that will address the effects of their operations on climate change. Agri-culture businesses, on the other hand, should look toward sustainable water management. Likewise, large manufacturers (this can also apply not only to clothing but also on FMCG or electronics) should look toward poverty alleviation on child education, while mining companies can zero in on community development in their areas of operation, such as introducing environmentally sustainable activities. CSR, after all, is not about aid, but working people to help themselves.

As companies start taking on various environmentally responsible, they should demand the same from suppliers and partners. Hand in hand with this, they could communicate proactively on issues pertaining to the environment, society and governance.

An investment

Definitely companies have to see CSR as an investment. Willard emphasizes that this is an investment that pays beneficially for itself. CSR is about building brand reputation and value which will lead on to economic benefits. It means getting better customers, better workers, and better investors.

Just like any investment, the time to leap on the bare opportunities is during the most challenging environments, for instance, the current financial crisis. But walking away from these challenges and toward embracing them, even during recession, adds trust and builds brand reputation.

Size should not stop a company from providing a sustainable CSR program. In fact, being small has innate advantages. With limited resources, they have a more strategic focus. Actions like practicing good "green" habits in the office like utilizing energy-efficient lighting and equipment as well as water recycling, among others, are initiatives they should practice. Small changes that, when taken together, make a difference. After all, responsible business is everybody's responsibility.

In pursuing a CSR program, companies have to devise a social engagement strategy that will enable them to effectively engage their stakeholders. Social engagement is a dialogue-based approach to building corporate reputation. By formulating locally relevant initiatives through meaningful multi-channel transparent and real time dialogue, a company does not just contribute to community welfare, but also ensures the sustainability of its business.

A social engagement program should always be time-based and steeped in shared values. Its sustainability rests on the stakeholders' ownership of the program, which in the end can mean its success.

[This article reflects the personal opinion of the author and not the official position of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is managing director of SEAN! The Sustainable Solutions Firm and member of the MAP CSR Committee. Feedback at map@globelines.com.ph for previous articles, please visit <map.org.ph>.]

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BUSINESS

RMHC Holds 14th Annual Golf Tournament for the Benefit of the Bright Minds Read Program

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC), the charity of choice of McDonald's, proudly announces the holding of the 14th Annual RMHC Charity Golf Tournament on May 17, 2010 at Sta. Elena Golf Club in Cabuyao, Laguna. This yearly charity event is for the benefit of the Bright Minds Read (BMR) program. BMRC's literacy initiative in partnership with the Department of Education. BMR aims to teach beginning reading to grade 1 public school students all over the country.

The Charity Golf Tournament has been a long standing tradition for partners and supporters of RMHC, with as many as 50 teams composed of firm players each of McDonald's business partners and affiliates, owner operators, and esteemed friends and sponsors such as Coca Cola Philippines, Global Incorporated, McCormick, Toyota Philippines, Maynilad, Asia Hub, Fonte Foods, San Miguel Corporation, Shoda Philippines and Hart Logistics. Other partners include GMA-7, Nissa, Globe Telecom, Maybank, GNP, Delpack Packaging Philippines Incorporated, J.R. Simplot, International Container Terminal Services Inc., and Fonko.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Philippines is part of a global network with 176 charters in 52 countries and regions around the world. It is dedicated "to lift Life to a better tomorrow".

To find out more about RMHC and how you can help, please email Hart Concha at Hart.Concha@ph.mcd.com.

Coco oil exports up in Q1

By Nico T. Olchondra

THE UNITED COCONUT Associations of the Philippines (Unap) has extended its estimate of the Philippines' coconut oil exports for the first quarter due to the jump in shipments.

With official figures for January now available, Unap executive director Yvonne Aguinto said in an interview that coconut oil exports for the first quarter may have reached 358,551 tons. The initial estimate, at the close of March, was 320,582 tons.

Shipments in January 2010 jumped to about 120,000 tons from a measly 24,579 tons in January 2009, according to final Unap data in the month.

At this time, coconut oil based is food, detergents and biofuel is still cheaper than palm kernel oil and even soybean oil and palm oil.

In February, exports reached

CONTINUED

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The BOSSINGS of Harbour City Dimsum House show how keeping up with the times has made their business Cebu's most successful restaurant chain.

More than a story of inheritance, the tale of Harbour City Dimsum Company, Inc. tells of how every generation contributes to make an enterprise thrive.

Cousins Raymond Kukung and Glendon Uytengsu belong to a family of restaurateurs. While it greatly helps that business that their family is one of food lovers, they also admit that the Cebu crowd is not that easy to please. This is because while the Cebuano has a discriminating palate, he also seeks value for money. That is why these Bossings do their best to constantly innovate and update the company in order to adapt to its market's ever changing lifestyle.

It all began in 1969 when the late Henry T. Uytengsu opened Ding How Dimsum House and introduced the concept of dimsum dining to the place. Over the years, the business has grown into a corporation that runs and operates various food establishments found in major malls, business centers, and other prime areas all over the province. To satisfy Cebu's diverse and dynamic taste are the three different brands. Ding Qua Qua is a traditional Cantonese restaurant. Harbour City Dimsum House is a mid-range diner with casual ambience and dimsum cart service. Dimsum Break, the latest addition, is a fastfood chain made specifically to cater to people on the go.

To further maximize the business's success, the family constantly improves the quality of service that their company offers. For this, they take advantage of what technology has to offer. Steve, Mr. Raymond Kukung's son, talks about how the services of PLDT SME Nation help the company's marketing efforts and management of information system (MIS).

- The **PLDT Vanity Number** makes the food chain even more accessible to its patrons via an easy-to-remember hotline (3 DIMSUM). Thanks to this, **sales have grown by 20%.**
- **PLDT Shops.work** connects the branches together, thereby making coordination faster and more efficient. Now, they communicate through the computer and place orders to the commissary via intranet mail. Inventory can be tracked in real time.

Presently, Harbour City Dimsum Company, Inc. is developing a franchising program that will bring the restaurant chain nationwide. Victorious, brave and ever progressive, the Bossings of Harbour City have never been this ready to conquer new frontiers.

These Bossings' Business Secret: constant pursuit for customer satisfaction.

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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan
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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

'First Filipino movie musical' tackles OFW phenomenon

Produced by CCP and FDCP and directed by Chito Roño, 'Emir' tells the story of an Ilocana who becomes the nanny to an Arab royal household

By Walter Ang
Contributor

AUDIENCES WILL soon be able to watch the first Filipino movie musical on the OFW phenomenon.

"Emir," tells the story of Soraida, an Ilocana who grows up on the sand dunes of Disney and ends up as a nanny in a royal household of a fictional emirate in the deserts of the Middle East.

Chito Roño, known for directing movies like "Dekada" and "Caregiver," is helming the project. The absence first question is, of course: "Why a musical?"

Roño laughs and says: "That's what I asked myself, too!"

He'll soon appreciate that question by executive producer Rolando Nieves, chair of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP) to take on a project.

"I wanted to commit to what no one else would dare do," Roño says.

With a filmography that spans genres and topics that deal with social issues ("Bata Bata, Paano Ka Ginawa?"); women and society ("Ligaligo Ang Buhong; Walang Pakipot"), history ("Sgt. Sol Vitor"), horror ("Feng Shui"), it would seem a musical would be the next to bite for the multi-awarded director.

"I didn't want to compete with the mainstream movie industry. I wanted to do something that they weren't about to do," he says.

His experience dubbing in the run-of-the-mill love stories that are churned out, noting a lack of "connection with real life."

"We've had many movies that had production numbers in them," he says. "But never ever in my memory did we have romantic musical before. So why not a musical?"

PART I C2

For half a century, Filipino hands have been rolling American wheat into flour and kneading the dough into bread. This partnership has ensured a consistent supply of the finest grains to the Philippines. Local experts use the latest processes possible to cure wheat into flour, thereby giving bakers what they need to create the best bread products for you and your family.

With high-quality locally milled flour as a cornerstone, the Philippine baking scene is ever-evolving. Bread is no longer just a breakfast on-the-go: it is a ready source of nourishment and nutrition any time of day. And every day Filipino consumers have more choices in their breads: varieties of international breads are on the rise, as are healthier interpretations of Filipino classics. Whatever your preference—decadent or diet-conscious—the best bread products in the Philippines are made using flour milled locally from high-quality U.S. wheat.

What bread does

Throughout history and across cultures, wheat has established itself as perhaps the most important cereal crop. Wheat flour is packed full of important nutrients, like fiber and complex carbohydrates to name a few. Research also suggests that the consumption of healthy breads can help combat obesity and may benefit those struggling with high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes and other ailments. Modern breads are also fortified with Vitamin A, iron and some even have folic acid, adding an extra nutritious punch to each hearty bite.

Why bread works

"Time is all we have," says a popular adage. On the contrary, time is what we most often lack. We need food, we want it fast, and we demand good taste too. With so many varieties, bread fits comfortably with our lifestyle.

"Pandesal" or breakfast cereal gives us the early morning boost we all need. We can have whole grain or international breads with meals, sweet flavor-packed sandwiches when we need something light or on-the-go, or delicious crackers to snack on while occupied with other activities. Modern breads are also fortified with Vitamin A, iron and some even have folic acid, adding an extra nutritious punch to each hearty bite.

A better option

A healthy life comes from healthy life choices. Choose wisely. Choose an active lifestyle. Choose healthy bread, because with bread, you're definitely better fed.

Ask your local baker or grocer about healthy breads today.

Appetizing Bread Possibilities

Children's instrumental ensembles to perform at Lincoln Center

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Montessori Center International (PCMIE) and the Temple Hill International School Marimba Ensemble (Thisme) will perform at New York's Lincoln Center on May 12, and on May 16 at Merkin Theater. Their performances are made possible through the invitation of the Children's Orchestra Society (COS), a nonprofit organization based in New York City dedicated to "teaching children the language of music," which was impressed with their performance last year in the Big Apple.

At the Lincoln Center, PCMIE and Thisme will guest perform with the COS to render Mikhail Glinka's "Finaling Overture." At the Merkin Theater, they will give a solo performance. They left Manila yesterday.

They gave their farewell performance, "Little Hands at Play," recently at the Meralco Theater, was capacity crowd. The children bewitched the audience with their marvelous performance.

Playing percussion instruments, they rendered classical works such as Handel's "Parthian of Seville," Haydn's Concerto in D (First and Third Movement), Brahms' "Hungarian Rhapsody," Khachaturian's "Saber Dance" and Philippine numbers such as Ramon Tapay Mayo," San Pedro's "Sa Mahal Kong Bayan" and Cayabyab's "Bamboo Dancing."

CONTINUED C2

'First Filipino movie musical' tackles OFW phenomenon

From page C1

Limitations of musical

He concedes how amazed he was when he encountered his nieces and nephews singing all the songs from "High School Musical." "They had all the songs memorized! Really, Filipinos love to sing and everybody loves a musical."

The decision to anchor the musical on the story of an OFW was deliberate.

"I always want to include something about or of society, no matter how minor," he says. "I wanted to create a movie with a story that audiences could relate to. And who doesn't know an OFW?"

Rubio is cognizant of the limitations of the conventions of a movie musical.

"Nobody bursts into song in mid-sentence in real life. (But) the fantasy of it," he says. "Therefore, it's important to establish elements of reality that lets the audience connect with the material. For example, you see the title of child London in the musical (Show)."

He points out that tragedy is also an important part of the mix.

"In Miss Saigon, (an person dies in 'Brewster Todd,' a million people die," he says with a laugh. "The point is that a musical is really a mix of fantasy and reality."

Therefore, for "Ginto," Rubio has been working hard to make sure that "Filipinos will find it accessible and there will be an emotional connection."

Group of collaborators

To achieve his vision, Rubio assembled a group of collaborators who "were willing to join the project and had the guts to carry it through."

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) came in as an industrial partner through the angles of its executive producer Nestor Jardin, having been involved in the development and production of Philippine independent cinema as former artistic director of the CCP, former board member of the PDCP and as current president of the Cinemalaya Foundation.

Jardin says: "We are thrilled to have an outstanding artistic team."

There is Palanca award-winner Jose Gonzalo for the screenplay; Red Sinza for cinematography; Gigo Alfaro for production design; and Arnold Ysmog for editing. Choreography is by Douglas Nicerio.

For composers, Rubio got Gary Granada and Diwa de Leon. When the Element of Prey, Colibo and Ulan Bonnet of Sugarfree were contacted for the project, they were game, too. Ictus, Granada and playwright Rody Vera worked on the lyrics.

Musical direction is by Chino Toledo in Dolby 5.1 Digital Surround Sound.

"The movie will have a mix of music genres. There's going to be some pop, ballads, rock, folk rock, novelty songs, among others," says Rubio. "It really depends on what a particular scene needs."

Stellar cast

The cast is headed by Francheska Farr (as Amelia), winner of "Who Will Be The Next Big Star?" joining her are movie and theater veterans such as Dulce, Jhiljhi Pascua, Julia Clarete, Bayang Barrios, Gigi Escalante, Beverly Salviejo, and 2009 Philstage Gawad Buhay for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, Lesli Bautista.

"Unlike (us) non-singing actors who can sing in sound stage, sa, like Shooq Hilario and Sid Lucero," says Rubio.

"Ginto" shot on location in Bocos Norte, Ilocos province and in the Mormons church of Marikina. Quezon and Tanauan.

"We used the same sets and locations of movies like 'Prince of Persia,' 'The Mummy,' 'Sex and the City 2,' and 'Star Wars,'" says Rubio. "In fact, I had to keep moving around because I didn't want audiences to see the same stuff they've seen in those other movies."

Executive producer Atienza says: "Excellent collaboration... It's also a way of paying tribute to our OFWs, saluting them in a way that's very Filipino —through music, songs and dances that capture the heart of the Filipino."

Three generations of Lopez women hold recital

THE LOPEZES

BETWEEN THE COMING-TOGETHER OF three generations of women in an evening of musical presentations as pianist Myrna Lopez, soprano Camille Lopez-Molina and mezzo Pablo Molina, along with the pianist's grandchildren Beatriz and Sofia Molina, perform in two recitals on May 13 and 22.

The Molinas and Lopezes will be joined by their students as they perform a repertoire of opera arias, art songs and zarzuela pieces, with special guests Beatriz and Sofia Molina singing "partial" selections from Disney and Broadway.

Shows will be held at the CCP Museum, Roxas Boulevard at 6 p.m. (May 13) and at St. Scholastica's College Recital Hall at 4 p.m. (May 22). Camille Lopez-Molina is a faculty member of St. Scholastica's College, Centro Escolar University and the University of the Philippines.

For inquiries, call Molina at 751-7942 or call/text 0917.3180979 or 0915.233.8486.

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Children's instrumental ensembles to perform at Lincoln Center

Front page C1

LITTLE PEOPLE: Members of the Philippine Music Ensemble for Children perform at the Lincoln Center in New York City. —PHOTO COURTESY OF PMEC

Preschool musicians

Mikaela Natasha Jamille C. Lee gave a stunning marimba solo rendition of Rhapsodic Fantasy, an adaptation of Franz Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2.

Guest artists Dianne de la Fuente Tiongson and her son Nicolas, a member of PCMEC, moved the audience with their magical duo rendition of "I Believe You Can Fly."

Recording artist Shay Salazar also rendered solo numbers to the delight of the audience.

The musicians of PCMEC are preschool tots aged 4-6 years old. At the Philippine Mastersonic Center (PMC) where they are enrolled, they are taught music, which forms part of the curriculum.

Directrice of PMC Bienvenida G. Windfield said: "Music is sought in keeping with the philosophy that children who are exposed early to music perform better academically and are more emotionally stable."

Temple Hill International School is an affiliate of PMC. Some of its members are alumni of the PCMEC.

Watching these wee stellar toastmasters with their nimble little hands was truly gratifying. One is amazed by the sensitivity they infused their playing with. They set an outstanding professional presence and decorum on stage.

With their nurturer Lola M. Espinosa seated on the left corner of the stage moving them, and Maria Catherine S. Tolentino on the piano, they rendered the classics flawlessly. From one piece to the other, they changed instruments like seasoned performers.

As the pit, teachers Herald A. Medina, Cecile D'Andrade and Jacinta T. Cirulos effectively directed and coached the children on stage.

Little ambassadors

The performers of PCMEC are Galen EM. Bulosa, Jillian Tiffany G. Bautista, Sophia Dayana Cruz, Michaela Wiebe C. Montero, Liz E. Simon, Kyle Renzo de Leon Bautista, James Lorenzo G. Cruz, Lance Christopher Ricardo C. Olivo, Javier Luis G. Garcia, Cecilia Simone Villar Santiago, Isabella Louise P. Singson and Nicolas M. Tiongson.

Those performers are Mariana J. Abbot, Hezziah S. Awang, Natalie G. Capistrano, Juan Antonio Santiago, Hans Christian Tan, Marcus C. Tan, Michaela Sarabia, Janelle C. Ley, Maritza N. Lopez and Isabella Isaac Jocson.

The children's ensemble took turns in playing Philippine numbers. PCMEC rendered "Ang Maya" on the xylolang.

Thirteen played Czerbyak's Christmas ditty "Kumbolbolchop" on the marimba ensemble, with teacher Neggie V. Nanol on the piano. Its playing was a sort of "caroling" to summer, a fitting expression of gratitude to their dearest, tutelar support enabled them to pursue their trip to the Big Apple.

They combined forces in the final number "Sa Mahal Kong Bayan," and nagged at the audience's hearts as they instilled patriotic pride. The musical extravaganza, especially in the last number, sent regularity doze, with particular attention given to details as wrists in majestic chimes. One is certain these pieces will move their audience, especially their countrymen who will host them in New York.

And bless these little ambassadors of goodwill, and may they have a safe and happy trip.

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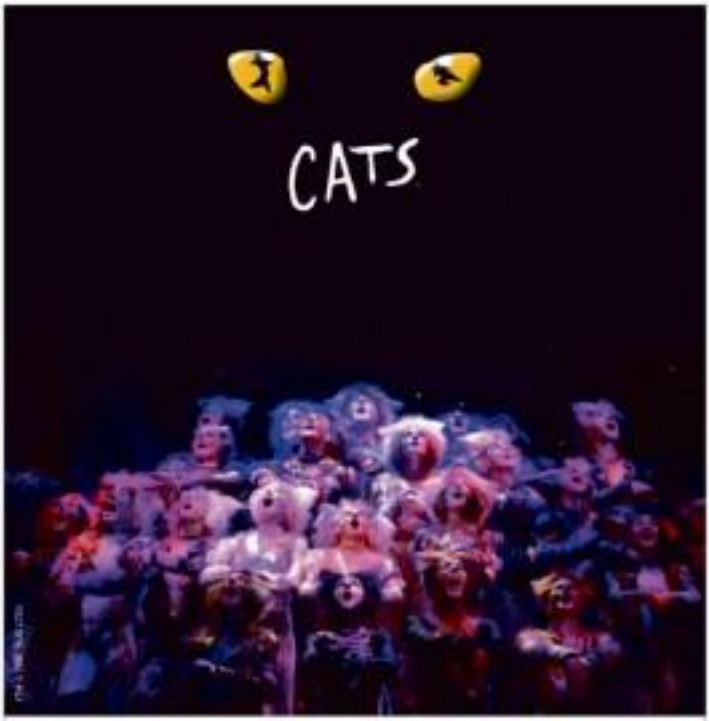

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FROM BOOK TO FILM

Winning laughs in 'The Losers'

By Jordan Mariz S. de Leon
Circle Reader

ADAPTED FROM Vertigo and DC Comics' series of the same title, "The Losers" tells the story of an elite, death-defying group of US Special Forces sent on a mission and betrayed by an influential figure hell-bent on wreaking havoc across the globe.

Although the film is not really special as it's filled with seemingly endless globe-covering and average action scenes, the ability of most of its cast not to overdo or underperform in their roles and many weird yet funny moments make it largely entertaining.

Also, though it's based on a comic book, the movie can stand alone by itself as it looks and feels something not based on a comics material.

The plot is about the petty misadventures of five men who belong to a US Special Forces squad: Clay (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), Roque (Idris Elba), Aramov (Chris Evans), Pooch (Columbus Short), and Cougar (Oscar Jaenada) are betrayed and set up by an influential enemy known only as Max (Jason Patric) while they are on a mission in Bolivia.

Presumed dead, they get their chance to exact revenge with the help of Aisha (Zoe Saldana). Together, using their unique skills, the group members go undercover and attempt to halt Max's plans of instigating a high-tech global conflict.

"THE LOSERS" is based on the DC Comics and Vertigo series.

Comedy, not action

The film's plot—a group of men hell-bent on getting their revenge after being betrayed...is all too familiar. But the way the cast flesh out their roles makes the movie shine.

Idris Elba could have easily overdone his role as the wacky and motor-mouthed pack leader. In the film, he primarily elicits laughs in awkward situations. The movie where he shoots the guards using telekinesis may become a classic.

Morgan, a fan favorite for the elite squad's leader Clay, easily translates his no-nonsense and straight-to-the-point demeanor as in the comic book. Both effortlessly portray their roles without trying too hard.

One slight disappointment is Zoe Saldana in her role as Aisha. Although her femme-fatale demeanor and sexy scenes are very welcome in an action-comedy film, she is relegated to being just an eye-candy in the movie. Only a shadow of the cold-blooded and ruthless character in the comic book remains in the film.

Solid performances

The rest of the squad fish out solid performances but not as memorable as Evans and Morgan.

Javier, as Max, fleshes out a funny, sardonic, and witty arrogance known more for his fabulous foray than the powers and influences he wields over the CIA as the character is portrayed in the comic book.

In fact, what's different with the film is that the comedy largely overshadows the action, which is actually very good. But when the witty lines are delivered perfectly and on cue, you truly get a huge laugh out of them.

The movie doesn't really make quite a lot of sense. But it's the film's silliness and lack of logic that truly make it entertaining. Think it's not for a whole lot of A-list comedy. You can't really lose with a cast like "The Losers."

JASON Patric (in shades) as the villain Max

Tanghalang Ateneo opens new season with 'La Ronde'

SCENE from "La Ronde"

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LIFESTYLE Arts&Books

National Heritage Month focuses on gift of faith

By Donnar R. Murillo
Contributor

FILIPINO FAITH AS HERITAGE is the focus of this year's National Heritage Month.

"Nothing can break the Filipino faith," Filipino Heritage Festival director and Intramuros Administration head Ramón Haspes said. "It's the one thing that keeps us going despite the many adversities we encounter."

Over the weekend, on April 30, the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists of the Philippines Inc., CBCP Committee on Cultural Heritage and National Coordination for Culture and the Arts opened the Angat Kabataan Camp 2010 in Legazpi City, Albay.

The event, spearheaded by Augustinian Fr. Harold Ll. Rentoria, NCCA commissioner for cultural heritage, features a seminar-workshop on the 33 churches declared as National Cultural Treasures.

Also on April 30, "Misa Barilayan," sacred music from Bohol, was performed at the Manila Cathedral.

The sacred liturgy incorporates Mass settings derived from the 19th-century Boholano Mass, and featured the Lolos Choir, gold-medal winner of the 6th International Folksongs Festival in Barcelona.

Archbishop Jose A. Dosado, CM of Ozamis, Misamis Occidental, officiated the Mass. He was accompanied by organist Alejandro Consuelo Jr. of the Manila Cathedral and the Las Piñas Boys' Choir.

Concurrent to the Mass was the "Intramuros Is Forever" photo exhibit and competition and a heritage lecture by public-

NATIONAL D3

"DEKALOGO" II, by Manny Garibay

Mabini's 'Dekalogo' adapted artistically for voter-education campaign

ONE OF APOLINARIO MABINI'S greatest works was his draft of a constitution for the Philippine Republic. It was accompanied by "The True Decalogue." Originally written in Spanish, Mabini's 10 Commandments for Filipinos had become famous.

As part of its "Looking for Juan" program, which seeks to explore the use of art for social advocacy and education, the Center for Art, Peace Histories and Sustainable Development (Caravan) has organized "Dekalogo," and asked 10 artists from the Sining-Poro collective—Elmer Borlongan, Renee Flores, Manny Garibay, Neil Manalo, Nicolo Meconiayan Jin Dermala, Anthony Palomo, Jose Santos III, Tammy Tiro, and Cris Villanueva—

MANNY'S 114

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May toasts Pinoy heritage—from religion to arts and cuisine

MAY IS THE TIME OF THE year when the entire country goes on fiesta, when it feels as if there is a fiesta happening somewhere each day of the month.

Dried out by the end of May, we recoup our energy and focus on Oktoberfest, the next round of Filipino fiestas.

But May is also the month of the **Filipino Heritage Festival**, and the festival committee has put together a program that ensures there are heritage presentations all over the country during the festival month.

Intramuros kicks off Festival month with tickets and a special exhibit on April 30. Bands marching through Intramuros streets on May 1, culminating with a "Living Museum" at Casa Manila in the evening.

Binondoanons locked in happiness on May 1 to Legaspi with performances of traditional 40 business songs and dances, and a "Moda Arkitectura" exhibit in Central Mall.

Scheduled on the first week of May are story-telling at Fully Booked in Bonifacio High Street, Taguig; an exhibit of screendoors prize at the Bonsai Museum in Baguio; a Mass Comedia at Santo Asia Church; dances by the Dayanihan at Las Piñas; a conference on cultural heritage at the Parish Hall of Gen. Alibay.

Second week

The following week brings a concert by the Philippine Youth Symphonic Orchestra at the Mall of Asia in Pasay, an exhibit at Ayala Museum in Makati, and a Mass at the Manila Cathedral.

On May 10 there is bird-watching in the Candaba Swamps of Pampanga. In another part of the country, Cebu presents a baroque of the Philippine Opera Company.

There is more. On May 10-23, catch an arts and crafts bazaar at the Museum of the Filipino People in Manila in the daytime. In the evening, go for a lumi concert and food festival at SM North Edsa in Quezon City.

Ortigas Center has an exhibit of 30 heritage chambers at the Parish of St. Peter and Paul on May 20.

The following day, the 21st, the Philippine Opera Company performs a barong in Balay, which Lasing in the Art north hosts a Filipino festival and an exhibit of historic churches of Bacar Norte.

The "finalfest," the tradition-al Bagac harvest chant hosted by Dayrose as one of the World's Outstanding Intangible Heritage, has a new performance at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Angeles City stages the traditional Sanbuenaventura, and at the other end of the Philippine archipelago, Rhodessa heritage goes on an Igdalat in Cagayan de Oro.

Final week

The final week offers a Vicente Manansala painting exhibit at Ayala Museum in Makati on May 26, a Dia del Galeón celebration at University of San Carlos in Cebu.

A few days later is the long-awaited unveiling of markers by the National Historic Institute (NHI) declaring the historic Balay na Tisa, Mercado Mariano, Silva House and Dalaong Balay in the heritage town of Cainta in southern Cebu.

Winners of the Most Audacious Cuisine contest will be announced on the 29th in Malate, Sabarat.

Heritage March closes with Palawan performances that link heritage and the environment, where marching by senior Cesar Montano; a tour of Manila bay and a floral parade.

All events on the exhaustive list are worth attending. Choosing which to attend is difficult, and the declining locations, where the festivals are happening are enticing to visit.

For detailed information, call the Heritage Month Secretariat at 8922862 or e-mail them at heritagemonth@yahoo.com.ph.

Email your comments and feedback to petak.pluma@gmail.com.

National Heritage Month focuses on gift of faith

From page D1

school students by Felipe de Leon Jr of the University of the Philippines.

Lovely rendition, some as old as 900 years, will be showcased May 6-14 in a photo exhibit at Greenbelt 3, Makati. "Mga Bay kasi ni Santa Maria (The Many Faces of the Blessed Mother Mary)" will be on exhibit in Iloilo, Leyte, on May 20.

'Hudhud' chant-dance

Folk music and dance have long been a source of faith for Filipinos, a good example of which is the Ifugao epic "Hudhud."

Literally chanted by the Ifugao tribes working the fields or during a funeral, the "Hudhud" has been declared by Unesco as one of 43 Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritages of Humanity.

An adaptation of the "Hudhud" will be chanted and danced by the Integrated Elementary School chanters and the Happyfoot Traditional Ensemble Group at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on May 21-22.

Musical direction is by Jose Lacaa and choreography by Gemma Cariaga. Fine Quezon directs.

The Tanauan and Pentecostal Arts Society (Tapas) will stage "Dumadagang Sang Kalbaryo," a tribute to Ilonggo music, language and traditions, at the Pope John Paul Cultural Center, Sacred Heart, Koronadal, in Bacolod City on May 13.

Other musical activities feature Modesto Sting Orchestra, an ensemble of musical prodigies aged 13-16 at Museo Sellers de Gracia Church in Guadalupe Viejo, Makati, on May 8; and violinist Alfonso "Lito" Salgado and the Pandayuhan Ortosai at the Ramon L. Cuipco Hall, Center for the Arts, Ateneo de Davao, Bankerohan, on May 13.

Manansala centennial

To mark visual artist Vicente Manansala's birth centennial, five museums will feature the National Artist's masterpieces. "Mga Gawa ni Enteng" will be held at the UBB Museum, May 28 to Oct. 30.

"Si Mang Enteng: Dionisio ng Kulay" will be at the Ayala Museum, May 28 to Aug. 29.

"Manansala: Ang Pagbabalik" will be at the Metropolitan Museum, May 28 to July 25.

Pen-day sumpa featuring Manansala's masterpieces will be launched and sold by the Philippine Postal Corporation during the opening.

Ayala Museum will hold "Images of a Nation: Thirty Memorials in a Second Century" May 28 to July 4. The Ateneo Art Gallery and the Vicheregan Museum will also feature some of Manansala's works.

On May 17-23, Rocky Cenzo's fine designs will be featured in "Dayaw Alin Ito" at Robinsons Place Manila.

More pieces from Cuna will be featured in "Habi Natin: A Celebration of Mindanao's Woven Heritage," May 27-29 at Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City.

KATAMPAYAN Dance Troupe

"ESPERES of San Pedro, na Parmer Dir na Loine"

Indigenous textiles given a contemporary spin—embroidered, crocheted, gauzed—will be featured at the National Museum on May 20-21, with musical acts Sexto of Palawan, Bise Sikat, Drip and Up Dharma Down providing the entertainment.

For inquiries on National Heritage Month 2010, visit www.heritagemonth.ph or call 8922862.

When 'I Love You' is enough

Text and photos by Karmia Stuart Santiago

IMPRESSIVE IS THE "I LOVE YOU" exhibit at Hiraya Gallery (5/16 US Avenue, Alabang, Manila).

Agney Arellano's sculpture "Kung Tatayuan" is clean white and sexy; and Ramon Orlina's "Father's Delight" insists to be in action, dancing joyfully or in excess of 1 hour pose.

Ronald Castrejal's "Love is by the Air, or the Source of It" is a funny take on love doggie-style, that is, an image of a real dog standing the behind of a stuffed dog.

It is ironic as well that Vincent Bellavidez's painting requires "Al Raphaelle," meant to be the creator; it features a senseless head atop a buff nude body that's all carved up and fearfully holding on to something for dear life. It is finding eyes in its penis. It speaks of what men fear they'll lose in the act of saying "I love you."

The abstract works are a perfect contrast to the more representational works.

Barbara Canning's "Monument" has a three-dimensional muscled triangle lying against a bright green, blue and orange backdrop, rendering strange and different but enable his concept of love.

Imagined order

Fernando Modesto's "I Love You" is quiet in its subject, and quiet in genius, but creepy in its use of weird avatars that meld with the three words written in black.

Lindbert's "Blood Line" has lines of orange and yellow and peach brightly splashed against a pure white, fuzzy background, allowing for an imagined order. One finds dependent on a repetition of colors and shapes, an arrow here, a jagged rectangle there, that ordinarily would be boring. Repetitive itself. Where the act of uttering "I love you" is one that repeats itself, one that's always the same, no matter how it goes through change.

Successful as well are works that seem conscious of impermanence. Butch Bayawa's "Emotion" is not one series of the endless happiness of the clients, its truth of living realized, and how this informs—or not—the joyful dance the woman is doing atop a flight of stairs in the background.

The mask serves the movie; the down's false happiness resists the real happy dancing; the I love you's are invoke with actions, and the masks we wear, as we say from the heart.

Form of torture

Rizard Agag's object "I Love You But" is a wooden rectangular prism painted on one side with what looks like a human figure wearing colorful armor. Ed. Armor stuck across the mouth, armor on the opposite ends of the prism, as well as from the back, and through what would be the body of the figure's chest.

The most innocuous of the simple lines: A girl is pre- beside a bus and cut through with swords and knives. It isn't about the cliche of love as magical, but of the act of saying "I love you" as a form of torture that isn't left, of pain that can't undo evil.

Finally, there's Mark Salvatus' "How's Your Fire Electr?" which from afar looks like standard graffiti in black, white and gray. Up close, however, it's a lovely blur in white flower within which is the word him.

Seems cliche? Well, no. The word first is rendered using the heavy metal band Guns' standard font. And with the notion of Lilith, we are offered a layer of critique here to it the names/bands/idea of him that's lovely? Or is it the standard graffiti on the canvas? Or maybe it is about the whole idea of saying "I love you," as nothing but a mass produced product, literally and figuratively?

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re—to collect six and interpret Mabini's commandments.

Their artworks have been interpreted with Mabini's commandments to create thought-provoking "Save Mindy" posters. Canvas is now sharing these posters to the general public in high-resolution files downloadable for free on the Internet.

To download the posters, and for more information, visit www.bulong-bisikan.com.

"Dekalogo," a group exhibit showcasing artworks inspired by Apolinario Mabini's "The Ten Decalogue," is on view at the UP Vargas Museum.

Visit www.upvm.ph for more details.

VISUAL ARTS

Plano and other Bicol artists

Bicolano artists Pinchi Plano, Rafael Sierra and Irma Patricia opened their exhibition at Avenue Plaza in Naga City with Caren Co. Plano showed acrylic renditions of mysteries. Sierra's art accentuates in silhouettes, while Patricia did watercolor landscapes.

Exhibit ends May 23. Guests included engineer Jun Pelagio, Christian Monsalve, Emma Lirag, RTC judge Fredde Baloloy, Amelita Sanny, dean Emma Muñez and Fr. Lysen Jamla.

Cuevo at Kaida

"Pressotics" by Rene Cuevo and "Dialogo: Cebuano, El Fenil & Iñiño" are on display until May 4 in Kaida Gallery (2/F Stand Textile III, Brgy. Sacred Heart, Quezon City, tel. 4144771, 0928-5061299, e-mail: adelhyg@yahoo.com). Cuevo employs contemporary hyperrealism in a series of visual tales, presenting personas identified by the shadows they cast, whether real or imagined, which reflect their true selves. Dialogues exist in the interstices, without borders and colonizers. "Pressotics" is curated by Noel D Feria.

"DAYDREAMER," by Rene Cuevo

Bangko Sentral works at Met

"Sidyap: Yaglo Dildyap: Momentos of Philippine Everyday" is on view in Bangko Sentralng Pilipinas Gallery, Metropolitan Museum of Manila (Roxas Blvd., Manila; tel. 5210821 to 23 ?700; e-mail: mail@metmuseum.ph) until June 28. This exhibit looks into the quaint details of traditional everyday Filipino life that are becoming distant memories to the older generations, and perhaps entirely unfamiliar and unreal to the youth in modern-era Manila. The exhibit has

"Bubbâ! sa Pulayan," by Omar Buncamayor

items paintings from the BSP collection such as National Artist Antonio Francisco's "Hanera," Oliverio Lumicao's "Bibliran," Jorge Pineda's "Pangalingan" and "Sungkayan," Ireneo Miranda's "Procession," Nestor Leynes' "Dayan," Dominador Castañeda's "Old House with Bougainvillea," Lino Silvestre Jr.'s "Vanishing Scene," Ordi Ornedo's "Pantaloons" and Norina Refosa's "Mangkukut." Also in the exhibit are outstanding 19th century portraits by unknown artists, as well as works by Alejandro Celis, Victor Bravo, Cesar Buenaventura, Santiago Bueno, Nestor de Dios Joson, Lili Salgado and several more pieces of the not-so-distant past.

JV Manila at Astra

JV Manila presents works by Jomi Perungan, Lito Casaje, Ice Basit, Abie Bautista, Lani Buenaventura and Nicky Mendoza shown in "Opening" in Galerie Astra (LHS Business Plaza, Tektite, Ortigas Center) starting May 7. Perungan's portrait pieces reveal hidden doorways and windows to mythical worlds, while Casaje's works depict the human body as epidermal landscapes of textures and colors. Bautista's version of folklore is captured by his rendition of shiny hues. Buenaventura's sense of astronomy is abstracted in her acrylic pieces. Mendoza brings the enigmatic gateways to the inner self on canvas. Basit explores doorways and passages of the mind with works that show the conscious and subconscious. Meanwhile, works by Joel Caballero, Junyet Marquez de Narciso and Reo Rosco are in "Opening, Part Deux" at the Phil Am Life Theater lobby (United Nations Ave., Manila; tel. 5268488, 0920-3240802) on May 24.

"PORTAL to Gaia," by Jomi Perungan

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronze G. Velarde

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DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

A FILIPINO STUDENT TO find that a young actress is loaded not only by the staff of her home network but also in the advertising world.

"Her boyfriend, who is super nice, asked me to get endorsements for her," she PR once said. "When I mentioned her name to the management of a top brand, they were uncommitted to saying they don't ever want to do business with her. Let my agencies a- ma-mope siya. All ladies ga an-cars, but all-cars grabe siya sigurong ang vault. I pity her BF because he's friendly in love with her. Awan-awa long siya ang BF niya."

Her fans ought to be pissed out from the screen soon.

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

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1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2
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6 IRON MAN 2 (3D)
7 THE LOSERS
8 WORKING GIRLS
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10 IRON MAN 2

MANILA

1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2 (3D)
4 WORKING GIRLS
5 IRON MAN 2
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METRO EAST

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8 THE BACK-UP PLAN

NOVALICHES

1 IRON MAN 2
2 THE LOSERS
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FORUM ROBINSONS

1 IRON MAN 2
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4 IRON MAN 2

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

STA. ROSA

1 IRON MAN 2
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3 THE BACK-UP PLAN
4 IRON MAN 2
5 WORKING GIRLS

LIPA

1 WORKING GIRLS
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2
5 CLASH OF THE TITANS

DASMARIÑAS

1 THE BACK-UP PLAN
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5 IRON MAN 2

STARMILLS

1 IRON MAN 2
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6 IRON MAN 2

IMUS

1 THE BACK-UP PLAN
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3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2
5 IRON MAN 2

ANGELES

1 IRON MAN 2
2 WORKING GIRLS
3 THE BACK-UP PLAN
4 IRON MAN 2

TAGUIG

1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2

PUMAMUENTE

1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2

BACOLOD

1 CLASH OF THE TITANS
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2
4 WORKING GIRLS
5 IRON MAN 2
6 IRON MAN 2

ILOILO

1 IRON MAN 2
2 IRON MAN 2
3 WORKING GIRLS
4 IRON MAN 2
5 DIARY OF A WIMPY KID
6 CLASH OF THE TITANS

GENSAN

1 WORKING GIRLS
2 IRON MAN 2
3 IRON MAN 2
4 IRON MAN 2

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3 IRON MAN 2

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7 films picked for Cinema One tilt

By Marinel R. Cruz

SEVEN MOVIES, four of which will be directed by first-time full-length filmmakers, have been chosen as finalists of the 2010 Cinema One Originals, which will be held on the second week of November.

This year's festival-winning competition has Dango ni Hanayo Rendezvous" by directors Rommel Sicat Tunida and Ramil Dulfemia; "Notes Mayabong" by JP Valenzuela; "Third World Happy" by Jeffrey Jeturian; "Engkwentro" by Jerrold Tarog; "Ishmael," by Richard Somes; "Tuwid Ang Daan," by Sigfreid Barros-Sanchez; and "Leaving Mirapuo," by Michael Angelo Ingusan.

The eight-member selection committee chose from a total of over a hundred entries this year, said Cinema One channel head Bernard Egnalles, also a committee member.

Also part of the selection team is Teddy Co of the National Centre for Culture and the Arts; Jhiji Laudal, writer of "Last Supper No. 3"; Raymond Red, BED CBN creative writer; Chris Jimenez, film producer; Michael Ventura, BTX creative person; Sarah, and Cinema One staff members Kathleen Rufer and Richmond Garcia.

"Tunida, Valdez, Salcedo and Lumanog will all be observing their first feature film for

DID YOU KNOW...

year," Arguelles told Inquirer Entertainment. "We abandoned the idea of having a film but theme a long time ago in order to accommodate new works from our filmmakers. In terms of content and genre, this year's lineup is very varied. That is how the selection committee decided on the finalists."

Arguelles also reported that the word "digital" has been deleted in the event name. "This was because we also feature titles in the film format," he explained. Cinema One Originals has produced award-winning works such as "Confucidad," "Jaclag Inabanag Indio, "Rome & Juliet," "Sanboleta," among others.

E-mail marinelcruz@gmail.com.

GARFIELD

A. UPIN

PUGAD BAABY

DICK TRACY

LOVEBOOTS

JAMES BOND

DRINK COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

SEN

BIRD MACHINE

MARWAN'S LEAGUE

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're full of ingenious money-making ideas today. You have the ability to persuade others to invest in your projects. Your charm is irresistible.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your creative juices flow today. You're full of ideas about how to improve your living space and your finances. Your best resources for solving problems are your own intuition and intelligence.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're full of renewed energy today. Use your new ideas about how to reorganize things, or maybe better or quicker ways to do physical tasks. People will listen to you!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Discussions with parents, bosses and authority figures will be quite productive today. When there's any disagreement, you should be willing to compromise. Spend time today with both sides, and possibly, your boss, therefore in general.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is an excellent day to study or learn something. You have excellent powers of concentration, and you're full of new ideas that could lead to exciting things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your efforts to research matters relating to shared property, insurance issues, debt, mortgages, inheritances and delays will bring results. In fact, one might surprise you. Be prepared for a change in your routine.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Conversations with partners and associates will be powerful today. Refrain from trying to tell others how they should think. Let it happen by osmosis as well.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Good luck seems to make suggestions about developing talents or improvements in your home or work. Follow what your intuition is telling. Similarly, you might be wise to improve your own health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): A new way to use your approach to sports the role or money matters will delight you today. It's like you're looking at the world through rose glasses.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Subtle issues at home today, especially related to bathrooms, garbage areas and anything having to do with plumbing, sanitation or cleanliness.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're unusually sensitive today. You're an amazing day to act, teach, art, market, promote or demonstrate expertise, sparkling.

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7	9	5	1	3	8	4	6	2
6	3	1	4	9	2	8	5	7
4	1	6	8	2	5	3	9	7
5	2	8	3	7	9	6	4	1
9	7	3	4	1	6	2	8	5
1	5	4	2	8	3	7	9	6
2	8	9	7	6	1	5	2	3
3	6	7	9	4	5	9	1	8

Conceptis Sudoku

5			6		9			7
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9			2		6			1

By Dr. Gary Foshee

Difficulty: Level 4 ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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It pays to have Oprah!

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW WITH The Buzzfeed, Chanvee talked about entertainment mogul Oprah Winfrey who, behind the scenes, calls the shots for the young Pinoy singer's international career. "She advises me on how I should look, on proper decorum, how I should behave in front of an audience. The first thing she taught me was not to wear bikini kinis. The kinis it's too much and I wouldn't look my age. I guess by her effort whenever I have a show there. She once told me, 'Keep your feet on the ground even if you're wearing nine shoes.' Before I performed Nine to God' on her show, she pulled me and David (Archuleta) aside, hugged me and said, 'She is your inspiration. Whether she can't tell you in time. She's my second mother.'"

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THE BACK-UP PLAN
LOSERS

TV Exec ignores Controversial Star

Front page E2

KICK! Garcia does a repeat performance for Ghibo. >>>

ulter publicly lauding it to someone else.

"That's me, you know," O'Brien told Steve Boom of "60 Minutes" in an interview broadcast Sunday excerpts of which were released earlier on CBS. "Everyone's good about everything ... of doing things."

O'Brien, in the midst of a sold-out concert tour, said he decided to leave NBC because "the relationship is going to be toxic and maybe we just need to go our separate ways."

It was the comic's first interview about the late-night television drama that played out this winter.

He has since been hired by the cable network TBS, where he will launch a talk show in November. AP

'But that's art!'

LOS ANGELES—Lindsay Lohan on Thursday defended an "ICU" photo of herself holding a gun to her mouth that sparked alarm about the former A-list actress, whose life and career have spiraled downward in recent years.

Lohan, 23, said the photo she posted on Twitter was from a shoot for a book about the dark side of glamour by celebrity photographer Tyler Shields.

Other photos on Shields' website show Lohan in high heels and underwear, scantily-clad in fake blood and handcuffing guns.

"It's not indecent porn beauty, it's called ART," the "Mean Girls" actress said on Twitter, responding to criticism on the attention-grabbing pictures.

Lohan is currently on probation for 2007 drinking and drug offenses. Reuters

Booked again

NEW YORK—Ricky Gervais will be back again to host the Golden Globe Awards.

NBC and the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced on Wednesday that the British actor-writer-comedian will make his encore appearance at the Jan. 16, 2011, live broadcasts.

Gervais is perhaps best known as the successful and star of the British version of "The Office," which Jenny was rare to be adapted to an NBC comedy before him, the Hollywood awards show had gone more than a decade without a host.

Top of the tabloids

The top three list stories in Inquirer tabloid Readers this week. (And why we are secured, if you are moved.)

■ Chanvee Pruengvapo, pre-shipment gig may split to Amal Briggs.)

■ Marcia, parents have any controversy feeling? (A feeling!)

■ Sarah Geronimo [illegible] (Where's another) comeback to getting pregnant, he?)

■ Ate Abrakadabra [illegible] (Doesn't)

■ John Lloyd Cruz, [illegible] Bella Guttierrez. (Her bed is on Anaheim.)

■ Angelica Panganiban [illegible] Derek Ramsay. (There's a kiss...)

E-mail us: [illegible]

No takers for bitchy endorser

Front page E3

Michael Jackson clichéd: He no still can't believe it's been a year since my idol passed away. But special people in our lives are never truly gone if we keep on loving them.

Let me share with you this beautiful, unpublished poem by the King of Pop's vocal coach, Beatrice Bolley. He appeared in "This Is It"), who can finally give his permission.

Human Nature

By Beatrice Bolley

The manner of voice
The manner of dance
The singularity culture that would open awards of standard to measure an audience of millions

My sparkled smile
and joys of laughter
All of light is greater so hard to [illegible]
no imperfection
People would beat their wings and dance on the heads of joins

Please with banners of children would follow him
Mouth babbling
Shoulders trolling

This was the joker of song

But not shining as he appeared in the hearts of the knee's glow
As majestic
as commanding as he seemed center stage

His open sweet desire was unsurpassable hopeless! The cynical mind of this cold inhumane

We
in On end
he finished an impossible point

He folded his then [illegible] yet another hero defying
Jam-dropping pop-rock connection

He blew into the microphone a note high
High
Awake dreamed around him
He sound at time
and carried steps left

The audience
screams As if venues with one last blazing encore
Reminded their hands together groupies

"Believe you, Michael ..."
And his Adonis voice
A voice like honey
And harmony
effulge
reflected by
"I hear you more."

E-mail: [illegible]

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TV Exec ignores Controversial Star

By the Entertainment Staff

SCANDALOUS TIME THOUGHT she'd get special treatment from her TV fans friend.

50 allegedly bragged to colleagues that she complained to TE about Controversial Celebrity, who has been criticizing her on different platforms. Turned out, the complaint fell on deaf ears.

50 is no sacred cow, after all. Moo!

Transfer averted

Handsome Balladeer's impending transfer was prevented by Major Network.

HE was unhappy with his current lack of assignments on MS and considered joining Tattered Press who moved to Another Station.

MS' bosses got wind of HE's plans and offered him a starring role in an upcoming show—yet another knock-off of the popular US musical series, "Glee."

Transfer imminent

Another Hunky Singer pushed through with his move to a rival network. He was allegedly dependent because Top Honcho was failed to deliver on his promises.

After giving his all to GS, number-crunch proved elusive for HE. Unknown to HE, GS has a string of hopefuls eager to take his place.

Not so anonymous

TVS's chismis show "Hagalan" will reportedly come out with a list of deadbeats in the biz.

Several names on familiar 111 Award Winning Actor, who often gets in trouble and dodges court cases as a hobby; (2) Award Winning Actress, who used to practically force brandy on hapless reporters; Interviewing her; (3) Drama Actor, who made tongues wag after breaking up with Glamorous Star and indulging in a love-night fling with Younger Actress.

Two unexpected names on the list are Xquisite Actress and Kapuso Hunk. Contrary to their wholesome and lovable, conscious image, El and KA are confirmed alcoholics, a source insists.

Muddling galore

How Palwetan avoided of the services of Macho Actor who reportedly ate a cell boy Problem: HP is supposedly married.

Popular Personality's camp heard of the illicit affair and is now spreading HP's indiscretion. Why?

PP and HP are supporting opposing presidential candidates.

JOM Santos

KATIE Holmes (right) will play Jaqueline Kennedy in a US TV miniseries set to air in 2011. Holmes, a.k.a. Mrs. Tom Cruise, will be joined in the biopic by Greg Kinnear as John F. Kennedy.

Last call

Willie Nep and pal Joe Inares are saying their current bit shows for the last time this week.

Joe's "Boring, Glaring, Sponsored Evening Election is Hearing [for boss or for Nonoy]," "Isa-a special farewell performance at the Ivanhoe (Promenade, Greenhills) tomorrow, 9:30 p.m. Call 7204510.

Willie Nep's "Pasadecidido! Get Taken!" has a final run at the Sta. de Manuela on May 8.

Katie as Jackie

LOS ANGELES—Katie Holmes will play Jacqueline Kennedy in a US TV miniseries based on the life of revered American First Lady John F. Kennedy, producers said on Wednesday.

Holmes, 31, will be joined by Greg Kinnear as JFK in the eight-hour series set to air on cable channel History in 2011. Reuters

He wouldn't have

NEW YORK—In his first post-"Tonight" show interview, late-night TV host Conan O'Brien said that, had he been in Jay Leno's shoes, he would not have taken back the show less than a year

PAGE

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High on news

QC councilor sponsors free daily newspaper for city high school

By the Inquirer Learning Corner team

SUMMER IN THE CITY usually brings playful sounds from children playing street games or frolicking in pools. But in Quezon City for the past seven years—in the third district to be precise—the kids have been spending time in public elementary school classrooms where volunteer teachers help them improve their English language skills.

At the moment, however, the kids are not doing noun-and-verb agreement exercises because Anjo "Bebot" Bunyi Jr., the congress councilor who started the Summer English Reinforcement Classes (SERC) is busy campaigning for Congress (District III) under the Liberal Party of Jun. Bunyi says SERC will resume next summer.

No SERC this season, yes, but that doesn't mean Bunyi's literacy advocacy is on hold.

A firm believer that education is key to ending poverty, he has signed an agreement with the Inquirer for daily subscription for Quirino High School, which is the second school in the locality to [illegible] program that can look forward to getting copies of the paper every day this coming school year for its Internet Learning Center (ILC).

Perfect spot

The ILC at Quirino High is in perfect sync with Bunyi's learning initiatives, notably Feed the Mind, Arm Yourself and the above-mentioned SERC.

The three-level program, according to the 'pol,' two-fold: consider, bridge reading and remedial sessions to public school libraries. "Much like the Inquirer Read-Along but on a smaller scale," says Bunyi, whose volunteers have served more than 4,000 public libraries.

At issue, he himself reads to the kids, a mix of children, especially when he reads the books "Ribo-Mito," "Barusan ni Lolo Ribello" and "The Magic Arrow," all three of which he co-authored.

with daughter Corliss. Billboards of the program carry the logo "Pagbasa/Pagsaya" and may be seen at various thruways along Kalayaan, Batasan, Amoranto and other streets in District III.

Spurred by Bunyi's reading program, Quezon City has officially declared Nov. 27 of every year "Araw ng Pagbasa" and, in commemoration of international leader Bonifacio "Nono" Aquino's birth anniversary on this day all city schools are urged to tackle tidbits from his life and times in the subjects Araling Panlipunan, Filipino and English, as well as hold storytelling sessions.

By awarding copies of the Inquirer to Quirino High School, says Bunyi, he is taking his objective of promoting a love of reading among public school students one step further. "I want them to read about and be aware of current events and issues," he says.

Quirino, formerly Diliman Street, was an annex of the Quezon City High School until 1998 when it became a separate entity. Today, it has 3,500 students and 142 teachers. According to principal Dr. Alejandro Belleseres, it count among its graduates Development Bank of the Philippines chair Dinky Jr. Soliman and Rep. Rodolfo Valencia.

"We intend to encourage reading but we don't want the kids to be content with being bookworms. If we want them to be leaders, then it is not just a matter of making sure they can read, it is also a question of what they are reading," says Bunyi.

And this is where the news reading nook is spot on.

Access to information

The ILC makes it possible for students and teachers to access news, opinions, features and other information available in print through a program where sponsors can underwrite the cost of at least three copies of the newspaper for school libraries each day from June to March.

In addition, Inquirer provides lesson plans that make use of the newspaper not only for journalism classes, but also for teaching language, mathematics, science, social studies and values as well.

Quirino's ILC, located in an area in the hall just outside the library and under the charge of librarian Ma. Teresa de Leon, is just another addition to Bunyi's education-oriented public service.

Belleseres says Bunyi has also donated to the school five new classrooms for students with varied disabilities.

Belleseres was top priority even for Bunyi's father, who was a three-term city councilor in his time. Wilson Bobet, the eldest of seven children of Jorge Sr. and Chanmarie (nee Balagtas), was being groomed to run for public office, he noticed on first enrolling in the Masters in Public Administration program at the University of the Philippines. Only after receiving his graduate degree did he consider running for councilor.

That degree has been put to good use. Bunyi, a topnotcher among councilors for the past nine local elections, was named among the Ten Outstanding Councilors of the Philippines (TOCP) in 2007. He is well-regarded for his education- and family-centered programs—from the gray and white backpacks installed with the words "Never leave me behind" given for free to all public elementary kids to the parenting workshops he represents with Ateneo de Manila University.

Bunyi says he hopes to be able to include all his district's public high schools in the ILC program.

NEWS BREAK Summer students at Quirino High, and their principal, Dr. Alejandro Belleseres (brother-right), catch up on the latest through free copies of the Inquirer sponsored by Councilor Bunyi (center). JOAN ARCEO

BOLET BANAL, who is running for Congress as QC District III representative, is Inquirer's latest newspaper donor and Quirino High School's thirty-sixth recipient.

Be a donor

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SUPPORT our newspaper reading program for the schools? We welcome individuals, corporations, small- and medium-scale businesses, Church-based and alumni groups as sponsors in this school-based initiative.

A sponsor may subscribe to a minimum of three copies of the Inquirer, or as many as desired, to donate to the Inquirer Learning Corner of any school of choice. We recommend supplying the school with daily newspaper from Monday to Friday (Sun) June to March.

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EUREKA! *Queenie N. Lee-Chua*

Readers speak out

THIS FOR ANOTHER COLUMN ON READ-ing Feedback.

Tristan Catindig says: I am a practicing lawyer (until I officially agree with your conclusion in "Culture of shortcuts" (April 19). I've encountered situations similar to those you mentioned in my more than 20 years of teaching commercial law subjects.

What I would like to share is a book that you may find interesting and useful is what you and I do—teaching. The book is paperback and (2), is "Teaching Like a Champion 49 Techniques that Put Students on the Path to College" by Doug Lemov. It is not yet available locally. The "New York Times Magazine" had an article on Doug Lemov and his book, "Building a Better Teacher" in its March 7 issue. While the techniques mentioned by Lemov came from a study of pre-college students, most of the techniques could be applied to college students in the country (which, I know, isn't flattering to our college students).

My reply: Thanks for the heads-up on the book, which I hope our teens will soon carry. Anything that can guide, provoke, and inspire teachers can only benefit the learning environment today. I have read some blurbs of the book in Amazon, and agree wholeheartedly when Lemov says, "Traditional teaching is hard work. Traditional teachers continually strive to learn and to master their craft. No matter how good a teacher is it's always possible to be better."

But (reading Inlay, I am biased) is the most important task in the world. Linda Bullock of this section says this line on a T-shirt which, she says, "is a convergence of self-interest, HRM, and respect for teacher."

[On a teacher's T-shirt]

I'd change a life

Arrow

Japan for kids

Christine Mae Santos writes: It's good that once family can go to places not just for the sheer pleasure of traveling, but more importantly, for learning.

It made a young age, Sarah was able to reflect on things that, sadly, some adults are still not able to do. I am impressed with his appreciation of the Japanese people's loyalty to their superiors. Truly, your father was right in saying that if only the Filipinos were that loyal, we could have so much more in the past.

I also commend you and your husband as his parents for instilling in him those values, and for exposing him to those intellectual pursuits, like reading and traveling. I am overwhelmed that you chose traveling over a math camp.

Many prospective loving hands on parents really make a great difference. Not only do you keep him from bad habits and bad media, you also develop a closer relationship with each other. I hope parents would be more concerned with their children's hobbies like you do. Kindly tell Ivan that he may want to watch "Kill Bill 2" where he's in it already—for his tenacious's sake.

My reply: Thank you for your kind words. My son and I thank the many readers for their support and, especially, their encouragement of his writing. Everything is a matter of priorities, and you are right about the importance of hands-on parenting. And, however much he is curious about "Kill Bill 2," Ivan has learned the value of waiting.

Warsan doctor

Carlo Eis says: Thank you for writing such a beautiful article on my great grandmother (March 29). My parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and siblings are glad that, after all these years, people still remember Dr. Eleuteria Acosta Gozon. They are also astonished by their utmost gratitude for your kind words.

Both of my great grandparents have been a personal inspiration to me. They've one of the reasons I chose to study in our state university. I'm an incoming senior in the School of Economics. Your words made me reflect on the level of excellence that my great grandparents achieved.

My reply: You are right in be proud of your grandparents! I thank Dr. Luciano Santiago, the classmate of Dr. Acosta-Gozon, for urging me to do a column on her, and for providing valuable information about her.

Her story, too

Dr. Ria Abenante-Abaya says: Thank you for sharing the story of your mom. Her story is my story. Just like her, I flunked grade up much of my medical priorities... in spite of quality time with my children. Your article validated me as a woman and as a mother. God bless you, your mom, and all the other women who take time to nurture their families.

My reply: (to the researcher we confer, we find that supportive parenting is the most significant factor in doing well not just in school, but in life. My teens know this instinctively, and so do you. Your best validation is the fact that your children will most likely grow into responsible, productive, and motivating adults.

Doesn't rule a thing

Christine Joy de Guzman, my high school classmate, is the mother of Yana, a delightful child with autism, whom I have had the privilege to meet. Joy tells the following story:

"One night, I was talking to Yana about her school assessment the next day. We were alone in my room when I was taken aback by her question: 'Mom, are you sure my school has good support for special kids?'

"I asked her what she meant and she replied, 'Can they support my autism?'

"I didn't know what to say. Then unconsciously, I said, 'What do you mean? Do you have autism?' She said, 'Yes, of course!'

"I have this picture:

"She looked at me, rolled her eyes and said, 'Hel-low! There are so many autism books lying around in the house...and I had shadow teachers since I was small, remember?'

"Shocked and amused, I asked, What is your understanding of special and autism?

"She replied, 'Remember you said I was born with sensitive ears? But I have a gift for art! So being special means when you were born, you had something, but God gives you a gift?

"A few years and back, when I attended a seminar on autism, the experts told us to tell our child at one point (when they were ready) that they had an art so they would understand themselves better. But we were advised to do it gradually.

"I always have to be on my toes with Yana. She doesn't miss anything!"

E-mail the author at bluebook@yahoo.com.

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San Beda has new rector-president

FR. MARAMAN newly elected SBC rector-president

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES of San Beda College has elected Fr. Jose Rhommel B. A. Maraman rector-president of San Beda College on Mendiola, Manila.

Maraman will have a three-year term that starts May 1 and will span academic year 2010-2011 to academic year 2012-2013.

Manuel F. Bengzon, chair of the SBC Board of Trustees, said the board hoped the college community would give its support, assistance and cooperation to the new rector-president.

Bengzon said the success of every established institution depended on the support and cooperation of every member of the community.

Maraman was vice rector and principal of SBC Rizal (2007-2010) before his election. He was also high school principal of SBC Alabang from 1994 to 1998, vice rector and principal from 1998 to 2001, and rector from 2001 to 2004.

An alumnus of San Beda, Maraman has a bachelor's degree in Economics. He has a master's degree in Theology from Mirabel School of Theology, Lucena, in Canon Law from the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, and a doctorate in educational management from De la Salle University.

Maraman, 47, was ordained priest in 1990. He entered the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat on Mendiola in 1984, and pronounced his monastic vows in 1986.

Filmmaking workshop begins May 12

STUDENTS AND AMATEUR filmmakers are invited to attend an intensive 20-day film production workshop starting May 12 at the Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI).

Organized with the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), the workshop will be headed by award-winning director-actor Salgado "Boy" Vinarao.

Some of the country's most respected film industry professionals have been invited to share their knowledge and expertise in directing, cinematography, production management, production design, editing, acting, scriptwriting, sound recording and sound recording and mixing.

The Mowelfund board is chaired by Socorro-ibilis Primero Ilumbas "Bea Perez Wenceslao. Vice chair is National artist for film and broadcast arts Eddie Romero. Trustees include Vicente Atienza, composer Jonathan Cruzad, actress Nes Escueta, and Boots Anson-Roa, who is also executive director.

Registration is ongoing. Visit Mowelfund Film Institute at 50 Roces Ave. corner Eng-Eng Street, Quezon City, or call 7271955, 7279961 or direct line 4134645. E-mail: mowelfund1974@yahoo.com or mfi@epsite.com.ph or visit www.mowelfund.com. ph/mfi/mfi.html.

AWARD-WINNING director Joel Lamangan and Edgardo "Boy" Vinarao with participants in an earlier Mowelfund workshop

DIRECTOR Joyce Bernal (left photo), cinematographer Dex del Mundo and cinematographer Joe Pereira (above photo) during the 2009 workshop

Xavier offers IB diploma program

XAVIER SCHOOL HAS BEEN authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) in Geneva to offer the IB diploma program next school year.

With the program, Xavier will offer a globally recognized curriculum to selected third and fourth year high school students.

IBO director general Jeffrey R. Beard visited Xavier to an official IB World School.

To join the IB World School group, Xavier entered its standards by benchmarking international schools through the IPSLE (International Private School Leaving Examination of Singapore) for grade school, PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test of the United States College Board) in high school, and IBE, the international Chinese language examination for foreign students.

The IB diploma program offers a two-year pre-university curriculum recognized by many leading universities all over the world. It is envisioned as an enriched program that will prepare Xavier students to be active learners and will also be a benchmark that will help raise the school's standards.

In the first year, the IB program will include English, Chinese, business and management, chemistry, physics, mathematics, the core subjects of Theory of Knowledge (TOK), Creativity-Action-Service (CAS), and Extended Essay (EE), plus Christian Life Education and Filipino.

Over the next five years, Xavier plans to expand the number of courses in the sciences and the humanities.

Wanting to make the program accessible to as many qualified students as possible, Xavier School will offer the most affordable IB diploma program in the country.

Guru of science of celebrations

DR. JOE GOLDBLATT, CEM of SOUTH Margaret University of Edinburgh, Scotland, is conducting a master class on event leadership for event managers May 17-19, at the De la Salle-College of St. Benilde.

Considered the world's foremost authority on event management, Goldblatt has been involved in planning and directing hundreds of events around the past 30 years, including two presidential inaugurations in the United States.

A recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Festivals and Events Association, he joins a roster of top speakers in the development of brand education in event management.

His five-day workshop, "Master Class in Event Management: New Trends and Proven Ball Products Better Outcomes for Events," is designed for people who want to maximize the impact of their events or exhibits. He has classes in meetings, conferences and conventions, with practices and effectively.

DOCUMENTARY

Goldblatt holds the world's only professional chair in event studies and is the director of the International Center for the Study of Planned Events at Queen Margaret University. He practically created and launched the curriculum that made event management (eventology) a profession. In 2007, he was named Event Educator of the Year by the Professional Convention Management Association.

He CBE lecture is organized by Cynthia Bernabe, program director of the Professional Event Management Course in the college's School of Professional and Continuing Education. Bernabe was Goldblatt's student (master management) at Temple University.

Event managers who attend the master class will receive certificates of achievement from Queen Margaret University and BLSPCDB, and the 10th edition of Goldblatt's book.

Visit www.dlsl-scb.edu.ph/spce or call 4005428, 4005405.

Personalized program helps students stay ahead of class

TUTORING CLUB BLENDS OUT THE FUN in learning. With its new and effective ways of motivating kids, it guarantees that students will keep up with the rest of the class.

The Tutoring Club boosts every child's self-confidence and ability to learn. It taps core branching skills in mathematics, reading and writing to help students retain (READ) abilities that prepare them for new academic challenges.

One of America's fastest growing franchises in private education, Tutoring Club, is now in the Philippines to give quality personalized programs to help students stay ahead in class. The skill-based tutoring accommodates students at all academic levels, from elementary to high school.

Tutoring Club has a non-traditional system. Host providers (or tutors) to students. Tutors are not your be exchanged for tests. The Club makes the most efficient use of advanced educational technologies seamlessly with home-based systems of instruction to test and track a child's progress and tutor him best.

Tutoring Club offers Learning Math, IQ Building, vocabulary and comprehension, and Writing.

Founded in 1991 by Larry Rolen II, Tutoring Club has 222 branches in the United States, Canada, Kuwait and now in the Philippines. It has over 30,000 students worldwide. In the Philippines, the Tutoring Club has 11 branches.

Tutoring Club Centers are at Bonifacio High Street, (#5428117), Eastwood, (7210067), Alabang Town Center, (8579282), Parang Town Fair, (8866500), Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, (8902221), Fun Ranch, Greenhills, (7262879), Kamputsan, Quezon City, (4352475), Sidcelo Village, Makati, (8417368), Ilo, Mesa Heights, (7430981), Burgos Circle, Global City, Taguig, (8522748), Banilad Town Center, Cebu City, (032) 2401665, Cell 0919-81-TUTOR.

1:1 TEACHER-STUDENT ratio at Tutoring Club allows each student to get ample attention.

Pasig school now offers high school program

THE VICTORY CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL School (VCIS) in Pasig City will accept first year high school students beginning school year 2010-11.

VCIS currently provides preschool and elementary education. It focuses on the development of Christian character, academic excellence and leadership development.

The school's curriculum is designed to provide the so-called dual learning system — group and personalized learning environments — as well as the use of globally recognized and innovative academic programs like Singapore Math, Science, Columbia University's Reading & Writing, Buzan Mind Mapping, Projects in Process Science, and Habits of Mind.

VCIS is at 338 Robinson Circle, Capitol Diary Areas Drive, Pasig. Log on to www.victorybelieversschool.ph.

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